

FREE

Kent on Sunday

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WEEKLY FREE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

East edition No 653

EDF ENERGY London and South of England Media Awards

ATTRACTION

Dreamland opens June 19

Tickets on sale now
for theme park

EXPLOSION

Bomb shakes the county

Blast could be heard for
more than 10 miles

POLITICS

Labour defector parachuted in

Harriet Yeo replaces
Janice Atkinson

ROYAL

Majestic all in blue

Crowds delight as Queen and Duke
of Edinburgh visit the county

PICTURE: Ian Scammell/Canterbury Times

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Watch the debates but examine the policies

FIVE years ago, the nation plonked itself in front of the television and watched, for the first time, our main political leaders slug it out in a verbal joust to win favour and our votes.

You may remember it: Gordon Brown looked perpetually awkward, David Cameron was neither here nor there, and Nick Clegg - incredible as it may seem now - was hailed as the bright young thing promising a different approach and a real alternative.

In the immediate aftermath of the debates, the Liberal Democrats rocketed up the polls - even topping some. They would never have it so good again.

A few weeks later, we all went to the polls and did what we normally do. Vote Labour or Conservative. The Liberal Democrats actually lost five seats.

Clegg then leapt into bed with Cameron for a rocky five year Coalition marriage, and that 'point of

difference' people admired was shown to be rather absent.

What's the point of this? Well, as the debate season ramps up, it's worth remembering that however good certain leaders may appear, however witty and charismatic, however many political points they may score, the electorate tend to play it safe when casting their general election vote. And they're less likely to be swayed by these theatrical televised events.

The key thing is that we all engage with the process. Because this year, everyone who continues to scratch their head and doesn't yet know who to vote for, will dictate who will rule over us for the next five years. And that, as ever, is something that requires a carefully considered, thought out, decision.

Charisma, let us never forget, is only skin deep in politics.



Editor **Chris Britcher**

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Published in Kent and printed by Archant Print, division of Archant Community Media Limited (Co Reg No 19300). Registered Office: Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE

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Finally... work on the A21 dualling gets under way

By Jamie Weir

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WORK on the long-awaited A21 dual carriageway scheme between Tonbridge and Pembury is set to start next week, with the Highways Agency saying the project will be completed with 'minimal disruption' for motorists.

The 2.5 mile scheme will weigh in at a total cost of £69.7 million when finished.

The long-awaited development has been on the drawing board for almost two decades and has long been cited as a key component in unblocking one of the county's worst traffic hotspots.

The man with responsibility for the scheme is the Highways Agency's Graham Link.

He told KoS on Friday the hard work had already started with the preparations.

He said: "We've been out there for around five or six months already doing ecology work and preparing the ground for the engineering phase.

"We have been working on areas of ancient woodland - that's a protected area of woodland because



PREPARED: The Highways Agency has already started ground works to get the area ready to build on

of its historical and ecological value. Around nine hectares of small trees and topsoil have been relocated to alternative sites.

"More than 150 nesting boxes for dormice and bats were put up, so that we could move them safely to new locations too."

The dualling will see a large new section of roadway replacing a single carriageway that currently acts as a bottleneck, causing tailbacks that can stretch for miles.

Mr Link said: "We will eliminate all direct accesses to the A21, as many of the hold ups on the road are caused by people pulling off the road."

Walkers, and cyclists will benefit too, with a new bridleway running the length of the development.

The work, according to Mr Link will last for a total of 21 months - if all goes well, it could be finished as early as December 2016.

Traffic shouldn't be disrupted

either, Mr Link said: "The existing A21 will be kept open throughout, but with a few overnight closures.

"There will be times when traffic lights are used, with a shuttle service in both directions."

The A21 had been shelved back in 2010 after being given the green light by the last Labour administration. However, a co-ordinated campaign by the local and county council and pressure from MP Greg Clark got it back on track.

Crowds flock for tickets as date for Dreamland opening is confirmed

TICKETS for the re-imagined Dreamland theme park in Margate went on sale on Friday, at the same time it was confirmed that it will officially open on June 19.

Hundreds queued for several hours in the cold on the seafront to get their tickets. The first 500 also receiving an original piece of the Grade II-listed Scenic Railway rollercoaster - the centrepiece of the park, which has been restored following a 2008 arson attack.

It has taken 11 years of fighting, a Compulsory Purchase Order by Thanet District Council and a hefty funding package of £18 million to restore the site to its former glory, following a chequered recent history. At one stage it was at risk of becoming a housing development.

The announcement follows months of speculation and secrecy about the re-launch, which has involved iconic designers Wayne and Geraldine Hemingway.

CEO for the park, Eddie Kemsley,

told KoS: "Announcing the date has actually been quite emotional for us. This has been a 10 year journey, so to see it come together is a huge."

She said that Wayne Hemingway would continue to be involved with the theme park after it opened, with more 'big surprises' set to come later this summer.

As for the layout of the attraction, it was revealed there will be 17 rides, all designed in the spirit of the traditional British seaside.

These include a helter skelter, Ferris wheel, Wedgwood teacup ride, and of course the Scenic Railway.

Bill and Jayne Watson, from Margate, said: "Dreamland is such a big part of Margate's history, and it's amazing to be here. Just a few years ago we thought it would be completely destroyed. We want to come back on opening day."

Tickets will cost £14.95 for adults and £12.95 for children. Entrance entitles you to ride all the attractions once inside.

Strategy unveiled to help boost our rural economy

A MAJOR plan to boost jobs and support industry in rural areas was launched this week.

Spearheaded by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (Selep), the rural strategy aims to support the area's rural population of 936,000 across parts of East Sussex, Essex and Kent.

It follows hot on the heels of £14.5m of new EU funding

announced by Defra and Selep earlier this week, to support rural business in the area.

Food minister George Eustace said: "The rural economy is hugely important to this country and we are committed to boosting enterprise across our countryside by encouraging growth, creating jobs and supporting our long-term economic plan."

County to host top tourism professionals at symposium

ONE of the most prestigious annual events in the UK tourism industry calendar will be held in the county this year.

The Tourism Symposium for 2015 will start at Eastwell Manor in Ashford on June 1, before moving to the University of Kent at Canterbury the following day.

It is being hosted by county tourism champion Visit Kent and

will attract more than 200 leading tourism professionals.

Chief executive of Visit Kent, Sandra Matthews-Marsh MBE, who is also chairman of the Tourism Society, said: "It is a huge honour to host the symposium, and a very rare opportunity. We will be able to showcase everything the Garden of England has to offer to thought-leaders and industry influencers."



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Airport expansion plans get council backing

BIGGIN Hill Airport has been cleared for take off after council bosses approved proposals for its expansion plans.

Bromley Council, which is landlord of the site, agreed at a full council meeting on Wednesday night to allow an extension to the operating hours.

It comes despite some local opposition, with more

than 300 residents gathering in the council chambers to watch the proceedings.

Council leader Stephen Carr said at the meeting that he thought the proposal was a positive way forward, and that he was supportive of the plans.

The airport said: "The council has voted 4-2 in favour. Thanks everyone for their support."



CARTER: Criticised by SuMA

Latest report sparks fresh Manston fury

A GROUP campaigning for the survival of Manston Airport has criticised Kent County Council leader Paul Carter for "flying in the face of a motion passed by his own council" in supporting plans to redevelop the site.

It follows a report issued by Kent County Council this week which said the airport was losing some £100,000 a week as a commercial operation and that a 'Plan B' was now required after it had failed to turn a profit since being sold by the Ministry of Defence in 1998.

That option is being spearheaded by developers Chris Musgrave and Trevor Cartner, who acquired the site from businesswoman Ann Gloag last September, after Ms Gloag had closed the airport a little over a year ago.

The duo, behind the Discovery Park in Sandwich, intend to turn it into a mixed development site.

But the Supporters of Manston Airport group (SuMA) dismissed the KCC report and said all steps should be taken to re-open the airport. A SuMA spokesman said: "It astounds us that, as leader of KCC, Paul Carter is flying in the face of the motion passed by his own council to 'support proposals to retain Manston as an airport'. We're shocked, but not surprised."

Have your say on next stage of ambitious path to wrap around our coast

By **Jamie Weir**

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A 40KM coastal trail stretching from Ramsgate to Whitstable has been unveiled by Natural England.

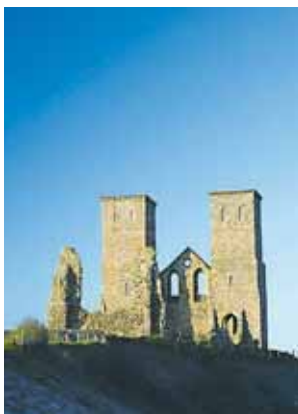
The proposals, unveiled this week, would become part of the England Coast Path - an ambitious project to run a trail around the nation's coastline.

The trail will make use of current paths in the area, with parts of the Viking Coastal Trail, The Oyster Bay Trail and the Thanet Coastal Path being used.

Natural England manager for Sussex and Kent James Seymour said: "We have had discussions with land-owners and key organisation along the proposed route; their input has been essential and helped shape the draft proposals - we thank everyone for their time and input so far.

"Over the next eight weeks, we are inviting all organisations, farmers, local residents, visitors and businesses to have their say.

"It's important that all responses



TRAIL: Reculver Towers

are taken into account and we look forward to hearing people's views."

The route includes a number of highlights such as the famous resort towns of Margate and Broadstairs,

alongside the Reculver Towers. Once complete, it is likely to be a popular attraction.

Those wanting to have their say, can comment on the proposal which is now open for public consultation.

It lasts for the next eight weeks, closing at 5pm on May 20.

Anyone can comment on the plans, with owners and occupiers of affected land allowed to make objections, which will be considered by a planning inspector before the secretary of state makes a final decision.

The minister approved the 59km stretch of the coastal path which will run between Folkestone and Ramsgate earlier in the week.

When the England Coast Path is complete - which, says Natural England should be by 2020 - it will be a fully marked 4,700km long National Trail.

Natural England says the next stretch due to be developed in Kent will run from Whitstable to Iwade on Sheppey and then on from Iwade to the Isle of Grain.

Senior figure quits Paramount project

ONE of the leading figures in the multi-billion pound London Paramount Resort plans has quit.

It was confirmed this week that experienced theme park specialist Tony Sefton, has left the project to pursue other interests.

Fenlon Dunphy, director at London Resort Company Holdings (LRCH), the company behind the 872-acre proposal for a former cement works on the Swanscombe peninsula, said: "We want to express our sincere thanks to Tony for the energy, enthusiasm and hard work he has brought to this project. Tony has played an important role alongside the senior leadership team in the original vision and moving the project forward."

Mr Sefton said "It's been a pleasure bringing this project from a fascinating idea to a very real proposition underpinned by a solid business plan. I wish the team and the good people of north Kent the greatest of success."

It all goes to plan, the park will open in the Easter of 2020.

Ban for motorist who hit 140mph on M20

A MOTORIST caught hitting speeds of 140mph on the M20, with a six-year-old boy in the passenger seat, has been banned from driving for three years.

Mert Tanay, from Enfield, north London, was pulled over on the M20 near junction nine at Ashford at about 10.30am on September 28, last year. He had been driving at around 90mph in his black BMW 323 when officers in an unmarked car first spotted him.

As they followed him, he started weaving in and out of traffic as his speed increased to 115mph before he slowed back to 90mph. He then rapidly accelerated, reaching speeds of up to 140mph before he was pulled over by officers.

In addition to the ban, he was also sentenced to 50 hours' unpaid work when he appeared at Canterbury Crown Court. He admitted dangerous driving.

Sgt Chris Wade said: "The speed and manner of Mert Tanay's driving showed a complete disregard for the safety of other road users, not to mention that of his young passenger who looked very shaken by his experience."

KEA

Orchestra mourns death of Roy Douglas

TRIBUTES have been paid to one of the nation's most distinguished musicians who died this week at the age of 107.

A self-taught musician, Roy Douglas penned music for a number of films during the 1930s, and as a composer worked with the likes of William Walton and Ralph Vaughan Williams. For several years from 1933 he was pianist and organist for the London Symphony Orchestra.

He was born in Tunbridge Wells and was a key player with the Royal Tunbridge Wells Symphony Orchestra (RTWSO) from 1950 to 1987, becoming its president in 1988.

RTWSO chairman Giles Clarke said: "Roy has been a great friend of the RTWSO over many years, and thanks to his help it has grown and matured to become a significant force for music in the south east.

"Roy was a consummate musician in all he did, and as player, composer, arranger and advisor as well as friend, he will be sorely missed by all who know him."

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agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

MP pressure secures train carriages return

COMMUTERS secured a small victory when train operator Southeastern bowed to pressure to reinstate carriages to a popular peak time service out of London.

It follows discussions held between Tunbridge Wells Tory MP Greg Clark with the chief of Southeastern, David Statham, over

the future of the 6.28pm service from Cannon Street to Ore. It goes direct to High Brooms and then Tunbridge Wells. But after a third of its carriages were cut recently, many travellers were forced to stand all the way home.

Mr Clark said: "David Statham listened carefully to my objections



and agreed to carry out an urgent review. I am delighted that he has decided to reinstate the train back to its original length. It will make a big difference for commuters."

Rail disruption to blight bank holiday travel plans

PASSENGERS planning to travel into London this Easter are being warned they face delays on their journey after Network Rail revealed it is due to carry out a major improvement programme in the area over all four days of the bank holiday weekend.

There will be no trains from

Charing Cross, Waterloo East, and Cannon Street, and work will also affect the line from Longfield to Sittingbourne and Maidstone to Gravesend.

Those planning to travel should check where replacement buses and alternative routes are advised before setting out on their journey.

...also

Turn your clock forward

DON'T forget to turn your clocks forward one hour this morning (Sunday) as British Summer Time officially begins.

And the good news will be that starting this week, the evenings will be getting lighter.

Check your waste day

THOSE who have their regular refuse collections on a Friday are being advised to check with their local authority to see if there will be any changes as a result of Good Friday being a bank holiday. See their websites for details.

A20 port roadworks

WORK will continue this week to change the way traffic approaches the busy Port of Dover.

Traffic lights are in place near the end of the A20 close to the Western Heights roundabout to hold vehicles.

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Bomb detonated more than 70 years after it was dropped

Huge 500lb device found in London shook the ground for up to 10 miles away

THESE dramatic pictures capture the moment a Second World War bomb, discovered in London earlier in the week, was detonated in the county.

The unexploded, 500lb bomb had been found at a building sight in Bermondsey, London, on Monday.

It prompted a major safety cordon of the surrounding area, with two schools and hundreds of homes forced to evacuate as experts moved in and removed it.

Bomb disposal experts from the Army's Royal Logistic Corps were then drafted in for a major operation to make the device safe and to arrange for it to be transported so it could be detonated.

However, Bermondsey is a highly populated part of London and required careful handling.

After carefully moving it from the building site, the device was transported overnight to a quarry at Cliffe on the Hoo peninsula.

And it was there it was safely destroyed in a blast which could be heard more than ten miles away.

The bomb was an 'air drop' type of device, measuring five feet long.

Despite the bomb being buried in a blast pit - a special type of pit designed to absorb much of the explosive force - and covered with sand, the blast created was significant, with huge plumes of smoke rising into the sky.

The Army says that it is believed the bomb was dropped over London by the Luftwaffe during an air raid which took place on May 11, 1941 but unusually did not detonate. It had lain undisturbed deep in the ground for 70 years, finally being uncovered on Monday during construction work.

Bomb disposal teams from Shorncliffe Troop 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Royal Logistic Corps and Sappers from 101 Engineer Regiment Explosive Ordnance Disposal from Wimbish were involved in excavating the device in London so that it could be safely defused.

It was no easy task with the fuse situated awkwardly underneath the device. To access it, a series of trenches had to be carefully dug beneath it.

Senior ammunition technician John Lester QGM from 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Royal Logistics Corps who was in charge of the op-



READY: Bomb disposal experts get ready for controlled explosion

eration described how it went.

He said: "This bomb was a live munition in a dangerous condition. It had been disturbed by some pretty heavy building machinery which is never a good thing. Bombs don't like being bashed around. But once we'd uncovered it we knew what we were dealing with and it was just a question of solving the puzzle quickly so we could get it away and the good

residents of Bermondsey back in their homes.

"We knew we had to get it away to dispose of it safely because trying to deal onsite with a bomb that size, even under a controlled explosion would cause significant damage to buildings, property. The risk to major loss of life in such a highly populated part of the city was very high. We transported the bomb to its final

BOOM: Quarry on Hoo was selected as venue for the blast



disposal site in Cliffe, near Rochester and it was destroyed at 9am on Wednesday."

The team which dealt with the device was no stranger to the challenges of such a device.

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They are highly experienced with volatile explosives after dealing with improvised explosive devices in Afghanistan and Northern Ireland.

It is far from an unusual incident. Just earlier this month, the discov-

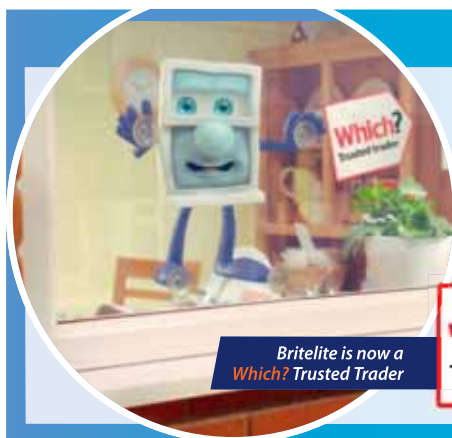
ery of an unexploded bomb near Dover forced the temporary closure of the Folkestone to Dover railway line.

They are a throwback to the days when not only was Kent and London frequently bombed by enemy air-

craft - some of which fell and did not detonate and were then hidden amid wreckage or ploughed back into the earth - but bombs along the coast were also planted in case of any German invasion.



DISCOVERY: Bomb found, above, and then taken out of London, below



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Yeo parachuted into election race as Atkinson booted out of Ukip

Janice Atkinson's high profile role in Nigel Farage's party is over, as Labour defector steps into seat

FOR a party whose pronouncements on gender equality have not always tended towards the progressive, Ukip seems to have a fondness for feisty women.

Number two on the south east list for the European Parliament elections last May and prospective parliamentary candidate for Folkestone and Hythe was, until last week, the outspoken Janice Atkinson (pictured).

Forgiven first for sticking her middle finger up at anti-austerity protesters and second for calling a Thai constituent a 'ting tong from somewhere', she appeared to be a party stalwart, here to stay and, if not to win a seat in Parliament, then at least to eat into Tory MP Damian Collins' share of the vote.

But it was not to be. After a tabloid newspaper article claimed Mrs Atkinson's chief of staff, Christine Hewitt, had attempted to submit an inflated expenses claim, a disciplinary hearing found the pair had "brought the party into disrepute" – a phrase associated with Ukip candidates with alarming regularity these days.

Out they both went. And in, less than a day later, came Harriet Yeo, former chairwoman of Labour's National Executive Committee and president of the TSSA trade union, and a Labour Party member for three decades until she sensationally quit last month. She was announced as Ukip's new candidate for Folkestone and Hythe on Tuesday.

Ms Atkinson, who remains an MEP, has said she will appeal against her ejection. With the claims against her also being investigated by police, she did not wish to comment.

Ms Yeo, however, was more forthcoming and said she had been "chuffed" to be selected.

"When I left Labour, I said I wasn't going to join Ukip," she told KoS.

"But I went to the conference, and everyone was so nice, and so welcoming, that it seemed disingenuous not to join.

"I had heard what had happened to

Janice last week, and I was speaking at an event with Nigel on Saturday, and I said to him, I will throw my hat into the ring if you think it would help.

"It's something I'd thought about in the past, and it seemed the right thing to do. He didn't make any comment, but he put me in touch with the people who were dealing with applications – I didn't know if they would go with someone who had been in the party a longer time, so I wasn't counting my chickens, but I heard on Monday night that I had been selected."

Unfortunately, she has already discovered one of the downsides of a political profile – the rumour mill.

"I was less chuffed to be reading some of the press coverage. I read things about myself which weren't true," Ms Yeo added.

"I read on Wikipedia that I had been kicked out of the Labour Party for fiddling my expenses. It gets you, and you think, why do people have to tell lies? People who are in politics are not immune from feeling."

So, what does she feel are the main issues in the constituency?

"Operation Stack; the hospital in special measures; housing and education are groaning," Ms Yeo said.

"They are a lot of the same things that we have in the rest of Kent – immigration, too many people and not enough resources."

And she said that it did not seem odd to be standing not for the Labour Party but against their candidate Claire Jeffrey.

"It feels completely natural," Ms Yeo said.

"I know the area – I have worked here for 14 years, and I met my daughter's father here – and it's near Ashford, where I live.

"My plan of action now is to plan a plan of action! I need to speak to as many members of the public as I can."

She faces a tough task however. Ukip's reputation has taken a major blow in recent weeks. From a seat they would have once entertained winning following a strong showing in the EU and local council elections,

“Ukip has a track record of losing MEPs as they defect, have financial improprieties or are sent to prison. She isn't blazing a trail, she's following one.”

Iain Dale,
Political commentator

today, realistically, they now have a fight on their hands just to finish second. Ms Yeo said she had not spoken to Ms Atkinson, but had nothing but praise for her predecessor.

"She's just an ordinary person who has made a silly mistake, and it's terrible to see what's happening to her," she said.

"If someone has done one silly thing, it doesn't negate everything else they have done that is positive.

"She has done a lot of sterling work in Folkestone and Hythe, and I am thankful to her."

Party leader Nigel Farage said he was "pleased and relieved" to have Ms Yeo on board.

"We had 22 applications, and some really high quality people – I was massively impressed," he said.

"I think it's very good news for us and for the people of Kent. Harriet has been very active in the Labour Party over the years."

Welcome news it may be for him, but it has not been a good few days for Ukip. Surgeon John Stanley, who was standing for election in Scotland, resigned from the party because of "racism and bullying within the party" and Stephen Howd, the prospective parliamentary candidate for Scunthorpe, was suspended after a complaint of harassment was made against him at work.

These are hardly the first scandals to hit Ukip, and one suspects they won't be the last either. But Mr Farage was philosophical.

"It can be wearing, but then all I have to do is look at all the other parties, and I see donor problems with Nick Clegg and the Lib Dems and a Tory candidate who wanted to instigate a race riot," he said.

"There are nearly 650 people standing for Ukip. There's going to be some to-ing and fro-ing.

"I can't micromanage the whole party – although there were some who were very surprised that a Kent constituency chose Janice.

"We have had our problems, but look how rapidly and effectively we deal with them. And the claims of racism and bullying are utterly ludicrous."

Political commentator and broadcaster on LBC, Iain Dale, said he did



DISRUPTED: Nigel Farage forced to change his candidates

not think the Atkinson crisis would damage Ukip.

"Farage has a certain Teflon quality. I don't think it's going to affect many votes," he said.

"Janice Atkinson was always going to be trouble when she defected from the Tories to Ukip. Her expulsion is serious, as she is an elected MEP, but Ukip has a track record of losing MEPs because they defect or they have financial improprieties or they are sent to prison. She isn't blazing a trail, she's following one.

"It was ludicrous that she was second on the list of candidates for the

European elections. The world moves in mysterious ways, but no more mysterious than in Ukip selection."

He said Ms Yeo's candidacy supported the idea that Ukip appealed to voters from across the political spectrum – but said Damian Collins would still hold the seat.

"It plays into the narrative of them trying to attract ex-Labour voters. They realise they have probably got all the Tories they are going to get," Mr Dale said.

"But it was pie in the sky for anyone to think that seat was going to go Ukip."

POLLUTION: Traffic is the biggest contributor

Warnings increase over health threat of mounting air pollution

Following the smog cloud from the Continent, **Jamie Weir** examines problems with our air quality...

THE toxic cloud of smog which rolled through the county ten days ago, after being blown across the Channel from the Continent, got many talking about the potential health implications of air quality across Europe. But Kent has air quality issues all of its own making.

With some of the UK's most crowded roads, the county has witnessed a number of pollution issues, with Public Health England releasing statistics last summer revealing Kent had the highest number of air pollution deaths in the region – a staggering 745 which were attributable to long term exposure to pollution.

Green Party MEP for the south east, Keith Taylor, kick-started a campaign on air quality in the Canterbury area, after he discovered that thousands of the cathedral city's children were attending schools located near some of the most polluted areas.

In its latest report on air quality in the city, Canterbury council says that annual concentrations of pollutants exceed its objectives at different locations around the city. These pollutants can cause damage to health.

The report states: "Concentrations within the current Air Quality Management Areas still indicate exceedences of the annual mean and 1-hour mean objectives for nitrogen dioxide at relevant locations, and therefore the Air Quality Management Areas should remain."

European targets for nitrogen dioxide are 40 micrograms per cubic meter of air. Areas of congestion in the city have exceeded this target on a number of occasions.

This, according to Dr Wendy Le-

Las, an environmental campaigner, and consultant with the Kent Environment and Community Network, is not unusual.

Dr Le-Las told KoS: "Certain parts of Canterbury fall far wide of the EU's mark with regard to air pollution."

"The area around Westgate has terrible air quality, with a number of pinch points all adding to the problem."

"Areas which are congested, or where traffic is brought to a standstill for a while, can reach very high levels of air pollution."

The campaigner said that more needed to be done to help correct the problems.

She said: "The council is doing things, but more radical steps are needed if we're going to see air quality get better."

Kent County Council told KoS that it has responded to the issue of air pollution across the county, stating that partnership working is helping it to combat the problem.

The council's director for public health, Andrew Scott-Clark, told KoS: "The Public Health England data helps local authorities to prioritise measures and policies that tackle air pollution, which is a factor in local health."

"It is important to recognise that some people will be more susceptible to air pollution, especially those with underlying health conditions."

"So it is important that these people take appropriate steps to mitigate their risk, like taking medication and seeing their GP if they are not feeling well."

"KCC, Medway and the county's district councils work together as

“ Dartford has endured problems with air quality for many years. That is why the removal of the toll booths was important in tackling pollution ”

Gareth Johnson,
Dartford MP

part of the Kent and Medway Air Quality Partnership to look at the health effects of air pollution.

"Its work includes education, including smoking cessation, sustainable transport and forecasting to help people be prepared for times when air quality is lower."

One of the problem areas for air pollution in the county that KCC is working to help is Tonbridge High Street.

The congestion hotspot sees air pollution soar at times when traffic is brought to a standstill, which, for many years saw the area exceed its EU air pollution target.

The £2.37 million regeneration plans, put forward by KCC working alongside Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (TMBC) will see measures put in place to limit congestion, with enhanced air quality one of the outcomes according to council bosses.

Another county hotspot which has seen air pollution cause health problems is Dartford.



MP: Dartford is getting better

Millions of motorists use the Dartford Crossing, and, in the past during periods of heavy congestion, this has led to severe air pollution.

Figures released by the Mayor of London in the summer of 2013, showed that the Dartford Crossing was the second worst road in the entire country for exhaust emissions, with higher levels of the dangerous NOx gas than anywhere else in the country. This gas can damage lung tissue, causing premature death in extreme cases. It's also known to cause respiratory diseases like emphysema or bronchitis, as well as aggravating existing heart disease.

A report which was put to KCC's Environment, Highways and Waste committee, acknowledged that the levels of congestion at the crossing had led to high levels of emissions which could have an impact on health.

The report – which was presented to the council before free flow tolls were introduced – stated: "Dartford has higher lung cancer rates than other districts in Kent and the transport related air pollution increases the risk of mortality."

"It also affects health in a number of other ways, including respiratory disease, allergic illness such as asthma, cancer, birth outcomes and male fertility."

Dartford MP, Gareth Johnson told KoS that air quality was a big issue in the constituency, but that he was committed to tackling the problem.

The Conservative MP said: "Dartford has endured problems with air quality for many years."

"Part of this is due to westerly winds blowing pollution from London over us and the basin nature of our topography."

"The Dartford Crossing has also seriously added to the problem, that's why the removal of the toll booths was such an important step to take in tackling pollution in the local area."

The known health impacts of air pollution are growing as well, with the British Heart Foundation, alongside the British Medical Journal releasing a report this week which showed a significant link between air pollution and the risk of stroke.

In releasing the report on Tuesday, the BHF demanded action on air pollution levels.

Its chief executive Simon Gillespie said: "We urge the UK Government to do all that is possible, as quickly as possible, to protect us all from unnecessary risk of death or serious illness from air pollution."



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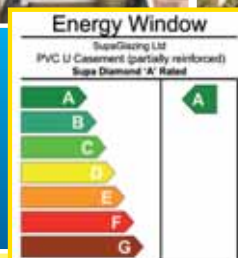
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Shining amid the gloom, the royal couple delight crowds

Two weeks after the Duchess of Cambridge came to Margate, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh made two visits on Thursday that even the miserable British weather couldn't spoil. **Molly Kersey** joined the crowds

WIND, rain and fog were not enough to deter the crowd of well-wishers who arrived to see the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh as they made a visit to the county on Thursday.

The royal couple first paid a visit to open a Battle of Britain centre in Capel-le-Ferne in miserable conditions on Thursday morning before moving to Canterbury Cathedral where the weather was a little kinder.

But despite the gloom, the royal duo still delighted those who braved the conditions.

Looking radiant in a vivid

blue coat with royal blue trim and matching hat, she was joined by the Duke of Edinburgh in suit and beige coat.

The royal couple first appeared in foggy and chilly conditions, to cut the ribbon at The Wing, a multi-million pound visitor and education centre, at the war memorial near Folkestone, which remembers the heroics of The Few in the skies above our county during the aerial battles in 1940.

She followed in the footsteps of her mother, the Queen Mother, who opened the original memorial in 1993.

They were greeted by Prince Michael of Kent, patron of the

Battle of Britain Memorial Trust, and air chief marshal Sir Michael Graydon.

Giving a brief wave as she arrived, she later stepped out on to the balcony to wave at the gathered crowds.

June Austin was waiting in the crowd.

She said: "I'm really pleased the Duke of Edinburgh came with her."

"They don't come down to our part of the world very often so it was great to see them despite the weather."

Spectator David Newton agreed. He said: "We were very disappointed with the weather, but that's England. I think the building is magnifi-

WAVE: Queen greets crowds as children cheer her in Capel-le-Ferne. Pictures: Ian Scammell/Canterbury Times and Martin Apps/Folkestone & Hythe Express





PRECINCTS: Queen approaches entrance to cathedral. Ian Scammell/Canterbury Times

cent on the outside, it looks like the wings of a plane."

His wife Nancy Newton added: "We thought it was totally brilliant that she came out on to the balcony to say hello to us. We travelled down from Swanscombe especially for it."

"We have been to quite a few royal events. We believe in Queen and country."

"I think the grounds outside the building are brilliant. We will come down again."

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh met trustees, supporters and volunteers, as well as pupils from Capel-Le-Ferne Primary School who were learning about the Battle of Britain in the dedicated learning area

- the Geoffrey Page Centre.

They royal guests toured the new £3.5m wing, which has been built by the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust, and saw the Scramble Experience - which aims to bring history to life for visitors.

As well as this, they were introduced to a group of 'The Few' - surviving RAF airmen who fought in the Battle of Britain.

Now in their nineties, they are the last surviving men who took to the skies in Spitfires and Hurricanes to do battle with the might of the German air force.

Tony Garforth Pickering served with 32 and 501

squadrons.

Today, 95, he was delighted to attend the royal visit and unite with his surviving colleague.

He said: "It was wonderful to be back here with my old comrades, who I met many years ago. I have known this building for many, many years and I have been coming down here for the last 20 to 30 years. It's nice that people remember not just me, but those who gave their lives, my comrades."

One of the men he served with was Paul Farnes.

Mr Farnes told KoS: "I met the Queen. She's very easy to

Turn to page 16



FAMILY: Queen meets Prince Michael of Kent
Pic: Martin Apps/Folkestone & Hythe Express

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SMILES: Queen receives a posy at The Wing. Martin Apps/Folkestone & Hythe Express

Turn from page 15

talk to. I told her I had met her father and that he gave me my DFM, which I am wearing today. I said 'I hope perhaps his finger prints are still on it' and she said, 'maybe they are.'

After opening The Wing the Queen made her way to Canterbury Cathedral, where the weather was fortunately a little better for the waiting

crowds. Typically, just a short while after the Queen left Capel-le-Ferne the sun shone through the clouds.

She was greeted by dignitaries outside the cathedral before being led inside where she attended a short service. The service was led by the Dean of Canterbury, Robert Willis.

The Archbishop was in Leicester where he was conducting the re-bur-

ial of Richard III.

She then unveiled statues of both herself and her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, commissioned by Friends of Canterbury Cathedral to mark her Diamond Jubilee.

Positioned by the West Door, they sit close to similar statues of Queen Victoria, who also reached the diamond milestone and Prince Albert.



HAPPY: Queen enjoyed her visit. Martin Apps/Folkestone & Hythe Express

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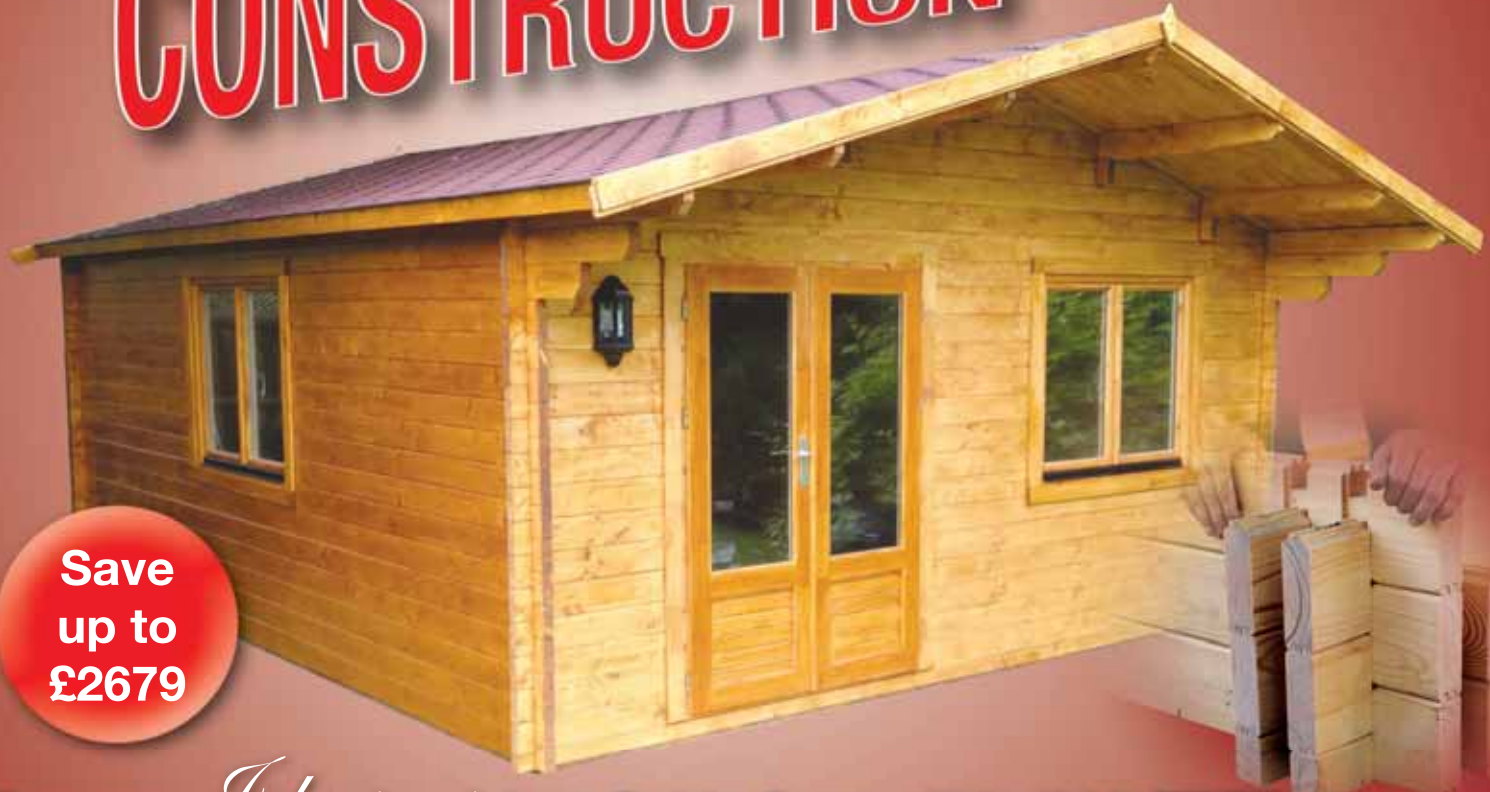
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CANDIDATES

Full list of confirmed candidates:

Sean Marriott (Ukip)
Mark Lindop (Green)
 Adam Holloway (Con)
Tanmanjit Singh Dhesei (Lab)

BATTLEGROUND: Gravesend Pier

Will the Ukip vote swing Gravesham?

Maria Chiorando continues our Kent constituencies guide.

IF the developers are to be believed, by the 2020 general election, Gravesham could be on the cusp of becoming a world class entertainment destination with the infrastructure to match.

According to attraction bosses, the £2 billion London Paramount Resort on the Swanscombe Peninsula could create around 27,000 jobs and revitalise the area.

There are also plans for a garden city in Ebbsfleet and the redevelopment of the Gravesend Heritage Quarter, putting development on the political agenda. Good news for many but raising concerns over erosion of the Green Belt.

But will this economic galvanisation make political waves?

The seat has been under the control of Tory Adam Holloway since 2005, where he scraped through with a tiny majority of just 654 votes. By 2010, this had swelled to a more comfortable 9,312.

LABOUR:
 Tanmanjit Singh Dhesei



But it hasn't always been blue – and Gravesham is one of those bellwether constituencies which swing with the trend of the nation.

Since its inception in 1983, which-ever party led the country won here.

Incumbent Mr Holloway will be up against Tanmanjit Singh Dhesei of the Labour Party, who is also the lead member, for business and the community on the Labour-controlled Gravesham Borough Council.

Mark Lindop is representing the Greens, and Sean Marriott is standing for Ukip.

Mr Holloway is keeping tight-lipped about his chances. He told KoS this week: "It is disrespectful to voters to talk about how confident I am about winning."

"It's not up to me – they will decide on the day."

"A concern is that if enough good Conservative voters decide to vote for Ukip, they could take enough votes from me to create an opening for Labour. I don't see enough people voting for Ukip for them to win here themselves though."

Ukip's candidate Sean Marriott is more direct, saying: "We are feeling really confident."

"I think we're getting an excellent response and we have a good chance of winning."

"I see this as a race between the Tories and Ukip – people are turning away from Labour, seeing them as responsible for years of uncontrolled immigration."

For Labour's Mr Singh Dhesei, it is not so cut and dried. He says: "I think it will be very interesting, and I have been campaigning every day, meeting local people."

"We are quietly confident that we will keep the council and assist in getting a Labour government."

One issue that Labour, Ukip and the Conservatives all agree with is the squeeze on public services.

Mr Singh Dhesei says: "Housing is a key concern for many of us."

"Along with a lot of the other developments that are going on, we have to have the necessary infrastructure in place to support more housing – school places and health services."

A key thing for me is ensuring we can house everyone without overlooking the existing communities."

"We do need to build more housing to meet growth, but we must protect our Green Belt while we are doing so."

"I am concerned about government policies about Green Belt land."

The Green Party's Tim Lindop agrees this is a huge concern for many voters. He says: "I would say, we must oppose Gravesham council's Strategic Green Belt Review."

"Other issues are the redevelopment of the Gravesham Heritage Quarter, the Paramount theme park project and the Ebbsfleet garden city."

According to Ukip's Mr Marriott, squeezes on housing is part of a bigger issue. "Everyone I have been talking to," he says, "has mentioned mass immigration."

"It is a huge topic across the board, and has an impact on many services."

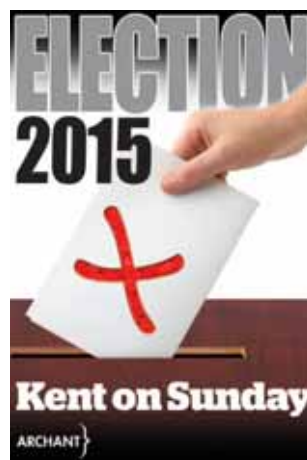
"Because of uncontrolled numbers of people coming into the country, the issue is top of the agenda."

"There are job shortages, and over crowding, and possible issues for young people looking at apprenticeships."

"They could be displaced by people with more experience coming to the country from abroad."

Mr Holloway accepts there are concerns with immigration.

He says: "In the last 10 years, we have had large numbers of people



coming in from eastern Europe.

"I would do the same as them in their position, but I think that for people here, it is an election issue."

"That feeds into the topic of an EU referendum – which is being offered by the Conservatives."

For Mr Holloway, many of the local concerns are centred on national issues, with the economy topping the bill. He says: "The Paramount park is a great thing for the area; we have to make sure that the right infrastructure and transport systems are in place to bring in workers."

"I wouldn't say this is an election issue though. I would say the electorate is more focused on the economy, which underpins everything, including job opportunities."

"It is the difference in terms of how the parties want to get back to a balanced economy that affects voters – I think most people see there is a big difference between the Conservatives and Labour in this respect."

Mr Singh Dhesei disagrees, seeing the local issues as the ones that affect constituents.

He says: "Street lights are a massive worry for many local people, and we want to see them switched back on – it is a matter of safety."

"A lot of money has been spent to save a little bit of money with this whole lighting debacle – it is important to address these specific concerns of residents."

All the candidates mentioned the NHS, with the Green's Mr Lindop saying: "On both a local and national

PREVIOUS RESULTS

Past general election results for Gravesham:

2010

Adam Holloway (Con)	22,956 (48.5%)
Kathryn Smith (Lab)	13,644 (28.8%)
Anna Arrowsmith (Lib Dem)	6,293 (13.3%)
Geoffrey Clark (Ukip)	2,265 (4.8%)
Steve Uncles (Eng Dems)	1,005 (2.1%)
Richard Crawford (Green)	675 (1.4%)
Alice Dartnell (Ind)	465 (1%)

Majority: 9,312 (19.7%)

2005

Adam Holloway (Con)	19,739 (43.7%)
Chris Pond (Lab)	19,085 (42.2%)
Bruce Parmenter (Lib Dem)	4,851 (10.7%)
Geoff Coates (Ukip)	850 (1.9%)
Christopher Nickerson (Eng Ind)	654 (1.4%)

Majority: 654 (1.4%)

CONSERVATIVE:
 Adam Holloway



Continued on Page 20

level I oppose the creeping privatisation of the NHS."

For Mr Holloway though, "there have been a lot of scare stories about the NHS". He says: "I think it's been a great success. The government have protected spending – you hear other parties talk about evil Tories privatising the NHS – that is absolute rubbish. You have a prime minister here who knows what it's like to take a sick child to hospital in the middle of the night."

In addition to general NHS concerns, Mr Marriott says there are problems with seeing GPs, something he says Ukip would deal with by "limiting services to those who have paid taxes for five years".

School places have seen a squeeze, with the Green Party voicing concerns over the privatisation of the education sector.

Labour agree more school places are needed "particularly at primary level".

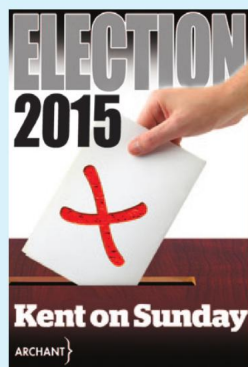
Mr Marriott of Ukip believes the school places issue is another fallout from immigration numbers.

"We're now seeing children from the same families being sent to different schools," he says.

Another issue that is a political hot potato is fracking, with Mr Lindop saying: "I am totally against it. It could irreparably damage our health and countryside." Though this topic is often contentious with the electorate, it was not on any of the other parties' local agendas.

Another important local issue for Mr Singh Dhesi is the potential third Thames Crossing project.

KOS PREDICTS...



ADAM Holloway's name has often been linked with a shift to Ukip. But he's remained loyal to the Conservatives and having witnessed Ukip continue to be dogged by controversy, he's probably more convinced than ever he's made right decision.

Ukip splitting the vote here could genuinely deliver a Labour victory... and could make this a real contest.

He says: "There is talk of it going ahead, but I think more research needs to be undertaken in order to prove it is required."

"We need to collate more evidence before deciding whether we really need to spend £3 billion on another crossing which could have a devastating effect on some parts of this area."

Safe seat set to stay blue with fresh face

By Maria Chiorando

maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk

Constituencies don't come much bluer than Faversham and Mid-Kent.

Formed in 1997, the area has seen a succession of Tory incumbents, with current MP Hugh Robertson annihilating his closet rival with a massive 17,088 majority at the last general election.

Even during Labour's landslide victory of 1997, voters were loyal to Conservative Andrew Rowe, who emerged with a comfortable majority



REPLACEMENT: Conservative Helen Whately

CANDIDATES

Full list of confirmed candidates:

Hairy Knorm Davidson (Monster Raving Loony Party)
Dave Naghi (Lib Dem)
 Helen Whately (Con)
Michael Desmond (Lab)
 Peter Edwards-Daem (Ukip)
 Tim Valentine (Green)

of more than 4,000.

However, Mr Robertson, who is the minister of state at the foreign and commonwealth office, is now stepping down as a candidate to be replaced by Helen Whately, who was appointed in February. She will face Dave Naghi of the Lib Dems, Michael Desmond for Labour, the Green Party's Tim Valentine, Ukip's Peter Edwards-Daem and Hairy Knorm Davidson of the Monster Raving Loonies.

A national mass exodus of voters from the Lib Dem camp and the rise of Ukip could see a scrap for places further down the list, with Labour potentially improving on their third place finish in 2010.

According to Ms Whately, the key issue for constituents is the economy

CANDIDATES

Full list of confirmed candidates:

Rob Bryant (Ukip)
Anuja Prashar (Lib Dem)
 Bob Stewart (Con)
Marina Ahmed (Lab)
 Ruth Fabricant (Green)

– both nationally and locally.

As with most other parts of the county, development is a contentious issue; trying to balance housing needs with maintaining the character and infrastructure of the area.

Transport is an issue that has also been raised – with rail firm Southeastern performing poorly, and commuters facing fares hikes – and issues around lorry volume on small local roads. Health, which is an issue across the board, is also a concern. Despite the lack of a hospital in the constituency, the six surrounding hospitals have fared poorly in reports recently. Labour's Michael Desmond also raised particular concerns about the privatisation of the NHS.

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KOS PREDICTS...

IF Faversham and Mid-Kent falls from the Tory grasp, the world of political punditry will forever be redundant.

Hugh Robertson may be stepping down, and Ukip's share of the vote will rise, but never in a month of Sundays will this be anything other than blue on May 8.

It seems equally as unlikely that Bob Stewart will lose his enormous majority in Beckenham. The main fight is who will come second and that fight could be keenly fought.

The Conservatives will keep this seat - and easily.



another Tory stronghold.

The constituency's current boundaries were formalised in 2010, the same year that incumbent Bob Stewart stormed the polls with a majority of nearly 18,000 votes.

True to many seats around the county, the last general election saw the Lib Dems pip Labour to second place - a feat that will surely be difficult for them to emulate come May 7.

Mr Stewart will face Anuja Prashar of the Lib Dems, Labour's Marina Ahmad, Rob Bryant of Ukip and the Green's Ruth Fabricant.

It is the location of Beckenham itself that defines many of the issues facing the electorate, with politicians citing the expansion of London as highly important.

Balance between providing housing and the requisite infrastructure, while maintaining the village-like character is an issue for many.

There are many plans in the pipeline to overhaul the High Street and

BLUE: Faversham and Mid-Kent has been Conservative since its inception

Beckenham Junction station, along with pedestrianisation of the town.

The Lib Dem candidate Ms Prashar also voiced concerns about redevelopment meaning local businesses being forced out at the hands of wealthier chain stores and franchises.

Also on the agenda is transport - with many voters commuting into

central London, they have been affected by overcrowding and high train fares - according to Ms Fabricant of the Green Party, running a non-profit train service for the people who use it could help resolve these issues. Also regarding transport is the expansion of Biggin Hill Airport, which was opposed by the Greens.



PREVIOUS RESULTS

Past general election results for Faversham & Mid Kent:

2010

Hugh Robertson (Con)	26,250 (56.2%)
Dave Naghi (Lib Dem)	9,162 (19.6%)
Ashok Rehal (Lab)	7,748 (16.6%)
Sarah Larkins (Ukip)	1,722 (3.7%)
Tim Valentine (Green)	890 (1.9%)
Graham Kemp (Nat Front)	542 (1.2%)
Hairy Knorm Davidson (Monster Raving Loony)	398 (0.9%)

Majority: 17,088 (36.6%)

2005

Hugh Robertson (Con)	21,690 (49.7%)
Andrew Bradstock (Lab)	12,970 (29.7%)
David Naghi (Lib Dem)	7,204 (16.5%)
Robert Thompson (Ukip)	1,152 (2.6%)
Norman Davidson (Monster Raving Loony)	610 (1.4%)

Majority: 8,720 (20.0%)

PREVIOUS RESULTS

Past general election results for Beckenham:

2010

Bob Stewart (Con)	27,597 (57.9%)
Stephen Jenkins (Lib Dem)	9,813 (20.6%)
Damien Egan (Lab)	6,893 (14.5%)
Owen Broly (Ukip)	1,551 (3.3%)
Roger Tonks (BNP)	1,001 (2.1%)
Ann Garrett (Green)	608 (1.3%)
Dan Eastgate (Eng Dems)	223 (0.5%)

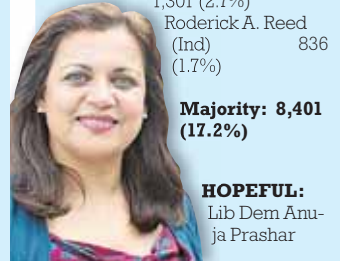
Majority: 17,784 (37.3%)

2005

Jacqui Lait (Con)	22,183 (45.3%)
Liam K. Curran (Lab)	13,782 (28.1%)
Jef W. Foulger (Lib Dem)	10,862 (22.2%)
James D.C. Cartwright (Ukip)	1,301 (2.7%)
Roderick A. Reed (Ind)	836 (1.7%)

Majority: 8,401 (17.2%)

HOPEFUL:
Lib Dem Anuja Prashar



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Flying disease threat due to climate change

Mosquitoes thrive in warmer climates and more rainfall, so could they be heading here? **Maria Chiorando** reports

MOSQUITOES carrying deadly diseases could become widespread in the UK within 20 years, according to a new report.

It comes hot on the heels of an insect being found in Kent carrying the potentially fatal West Nile virus.

The scientists behind the report claim that climate change - which results in warmer temperatures and more rainfall - could provide hospitable conditions for the bugs to thrive, bringing with them diseases like malaria, and dengue fever, which result in flu-like symptoms and can even be fatal.

While no human cases have been reported, a species called the culex mosquito, which is thought to be the main carrier of the West Nile virus in Europe, has been discovered in Kent.

David Ponsonby is a principle lecturer in biology at Canterbury Christ Church University who has supervised PhD theses on the bugs.

He says: "We already have mosquitoes in Kent - probably around 34 different species, in line with the rest of the UK. But we are particularly wor-

ried about a specific type - the Asian tiger - coming here, as they can cause potentially fatal diseases like dengue and chikungunya."

Dengue can leave victims with a soaring temperature and flu like symptoms. It can, however, develop into a potentially fatal illness causing complications elsewhere.

Chikungunya has similar symptoms but has no known cure and can cause chronic illness.

Dr Ponsonby added: "They have a good chance of settling because of the conditions. We also have marshy areas in the county, which make a good habitat for the insects, who like stagnant water. I would say predictions about these other species of mosquitoes coming are very accurate - and it is something we have been worrying about for some time."

The report was compiled by Public Health England (PHE) scientists Steve Leach and Jolyon Medlock from the emergency response department.

According to climate change models a 2°C rise in temperature could extend the mosquito's active season by one month and geographical

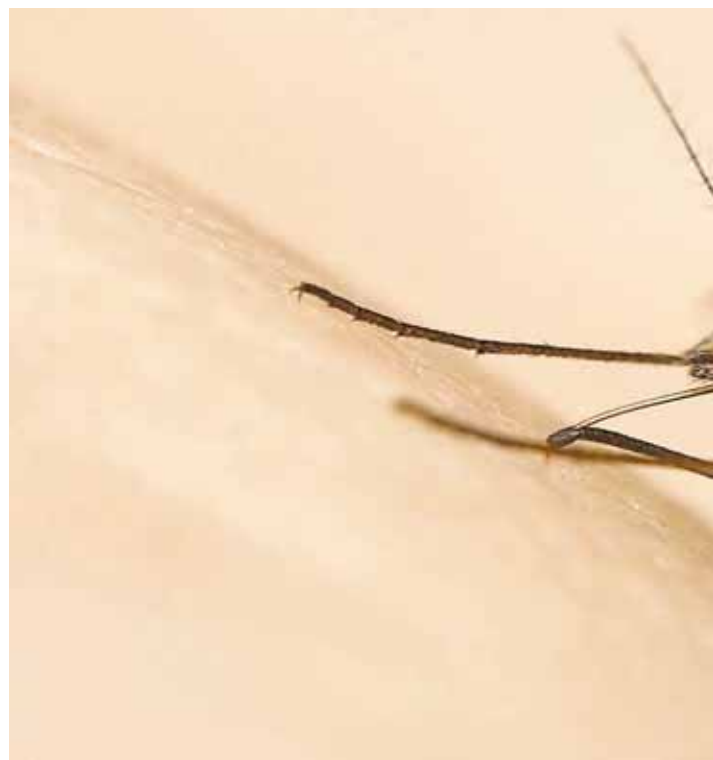
“ I would say the predictions about other species of mosquitoes coming are accurate - it's something we have been worrying about for some time ”

Dr David Ponsonby
Canterbury Christ Church

spread by up to 30 per cent by 2030.

In real terms, that means the temperatures predicted could support one month of chikungunya virus transmission in London by 2041, and up to three months in south east England by 2071. Previously, dengue was largely confined to tropical and subtropical regions. This is because freezing temperatures kill the mosquito's larvae and eggs.

Europe has already seen a spread of



insect-borne illnesses in the last decade, with cases that include malaria in Greece, West Nile virus in eastern Europe, and chikungunya in Italy and France.

Professor Leach said: "We are not suggesting that climate change is the only or the main factor driving the increase in vector-borne diseases in the UK and Europe, but that it is one

of many factors including socioeconomic development, urbanisation, widespread land-use change, migration, and globalisation that should be considered.

"Lessons from the outbreaks of West Nile virus in North America and chikungunya in the Caribbean emphasise the need to assess future vector-borne disease risks and prepare

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TRANSMISSION: They may be small, but mosquitos spread a host of diseases

contingencies for future outbreaks."

In response to the data, Dr Medlock, head of the medical entomology group at PHE, said: "This review highlights the potential changing risks posed to the UK but also the surveillance work done in the UK to prepare for these changes."

According to Dr Medlock, the UK already has surveillance pro-

grammes for imported human disease and ticks and mosquitoes and there is a Department of Health funded research programme, specifically considering the potential future health impacts associated with climate change.

He added: "This paper expands on previously published research highlighting that the incidence of mos-

quito and tick borne disease in Europe continues to increase.

"The paper identifies that the present UK climate could support Asian tiger mosquitoes, which have recently been involved in transmission of chikungunya and dengue in France. The likelihood for their establishment in the UK will increase as the climate continues to warm.

PORT HOSTS SCORPION COLONY

IT'S NOT just mosquitos who are looking to migrating to these shores.

There are some other non-indigenous creatures living in the county, notably, the yellow tailed scorpions, or *Euscorpis flavi-caudis*, living in Sheerness.

Greg Hitchcock is a Thames Gateway officer at the Kent Wildlife Trust.

He says: "It's thought they came to the county over 100 years ago - and now have a population that's in the thousands. They are believed to have come over in shipments of marble from Italy, and settled in Sheerness because it's warm and dry, with the country's most Mediterranean conditions."

The scorpions are now living in cracks in the wall at Sheerness Docks.

Mr Hitchcock says: "They are generally nocturnal, so people don't tend to see them often."

In terms of their appearance, they are quite small at only around five centimetres in length. They are dark chocolate brown



with a yellow-tipped tail.

The creatures, who are arachnids and not insects, as they have eight legs, are relatively harmless. "They can sting," Mr Hitchcock says. "But it generally isn't very painful - less so than a bee sting."

They are not seen very often because they are nocturnal, and come out only to find food.

With a very low metabolic rate, they can exist off just a few meals a year, generally of spiders and woodlice.

"It also identifies that climate change adaptation strategies, which increase use of wetlands, need careful consideration to contain the risk posed by native and non-native mosquito species.

"This is why it is critical that UK surveillance of mosquitoes and ticks is expanded, that there's better understanding of the potential impacts

of climate change adaptation strategies in the event of a disease outbreak resulting from an extreme event."

However, according to Dr Ponsonby, it is important to maintain a sense of perspective. He says: "We shouldn't panic - there are things we can do to help prevent them spread disease, like controlling stagnant water areas, for example ponds."

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“ If he did indeed plan to say it, perhaps it would have been better to do it rather more formally than standing in his kitchen chopping tomatoes. ”

Iain Dale,
Political commentator

REVELATION:
David Cameron
revealed plans
during BBC
interview

Shaken not stirred: Our MPs on Cameron's shock announcement

With just weeks to go before the election, the issue of the future leadership of the Conservatives was introduced to the mix this week by none other than the prime minister. **Chris Murphy** reports...

DAVID Cameron's announcement this week he would not seek a third term in office should the Conservatives cling to power after the upcoming election has left senior Tories in the county unruffled – publicly at least.

But political commentators say they may well be frustrated that the leadership issue has been thrown into the spotlight now – just weeks before what everyone is predicting will be the closest election in recent history.

North Thanet's Sir Roger Gale said he was “quite relaxed about it”.

He told KoS: “My main concern is that if a situation arises, where no one party is firmly in control after this election and there needs to be another election within a year or so, that Mr Cameron does stay on until after that second election.

“We certainly don't want to change horses half way through. As to who the next leader is, it could be anyone, even Kent's own Michael Fallon [MP for Sevenoaks], who has been a very, very good minister of state at business and done a cracking job at defence.

“What Mr Cameron said does not diffuse talks about a leadership change, nor does it exacerbate it. It merely says what everyone knew anyway. It is not a distraction this close to the election. He gave an honest and straightforward answer, and he was wise to do so. Others may have ducked or fudged around it.”

While never ignoring into anything to concern David Cameron too much, there were reports just last weekend that should Mr Cameron not perform as many believe the Tories should af-

ter May 7, he will come under mounting pressure.

It will be completely expected for either Mr Cameron, or Labour leader Ed Miliband, to resign should they fail to emerge as prime minister after the votes have been counted.

Mr Cameron made his revelation during a BBC interview, as he guided a reporter around his kitchen.

Faversham MP Hugh Robertson, who is himself standing down at the May election, said: “I thought that it was a perfectly honest and straightforward answer to an obvious question and that the Westminster village is getting into a needless lather.

“If he had dodged the question, he would have been accused of being evasive and if he said that he had no plans to quit, he would simply have garnered ‘Cameron to go on and on’ headlines. Whatever he said, he was going to generate a storm in a teacup.”

Pembury-based political pundit and broadcaster Iain Dale said the confidence of MPs in Kent, may not be shared elsewhere in the UK where margins of success and failure are far smaller.

He explained: “There has never been serious talk of a leadership challenge. If David Cameron fails to remain prime minister after May 7 he will resign of his own accord.

“There is also the possibility that if he fails to win a majority but can only govern as a minority government that he might be forced out, although I think this is slightly fanciful.

“There will be MPs who think that if he couldn't beat the most unpopular prime minister of modern times, Gordon Brown, and can't beat a man



CANDIDATES? Boris Johnson left, and Theresa May

who people think is the most incompetent leader of the opposition in recent memory, then he needs to be replaced.

“Whatever many will say, it is a very unwelcome distraction for candidates fighting marginal seats, and it has got the Westminster media very excited. But to ordinary voters I don't think it will make a huge difference in terms of changing their votes.

“But whenever the prime minister does a radio or TV interview he will be asked about it, and to that extent it is indeed a distraction from the main issues of the election campaign.

“David Cameron has a history of blurting things out, and I think this is yet another example. If he did indeed plan to say it, perhaps it would have been better to do it rather more formally than standing in his kitchen chopping tomatoes.”

KEA

“I expect Sajid Javid, Jeremy Hunt and Philip Hammond to be contenders, plus perhaps a couple of people who aren't yet even in Parliament.

“But Cameron should never have allowed himself to speculate on his successor.

“All it does it fuel speculation and on the eve of an election campaign it's the last thing he should be doing.”

As for other Kent MPs, they seem non plussed by what has been the talk of Westminster this week.

Charlie Elphicke at Dover and Deal, and favourite to secure re-election, said: “David Cameron was asked a question and he answered it straight. Full credit to him for doing so.

“He's up for doing at least five years and I'm glad about that as he is the best prime minister for our country.”

Maidstone MP and minister Helen Grant said: “We are focused on winning a majority Conservative government so we can secure a better future for Britain.

“If the British people re-elect him on May 7, then David Cameron will serve every single day of a full second term.

“As for the next general election after that, we will cross that bridge when we come to it.”

As for Sittingbourne and Sheppey's Gordon Henderson?

“I am concentrating all my efforts on important issues in my own constituency,” he told us. “I'll leave the wider party political questions to other people.”

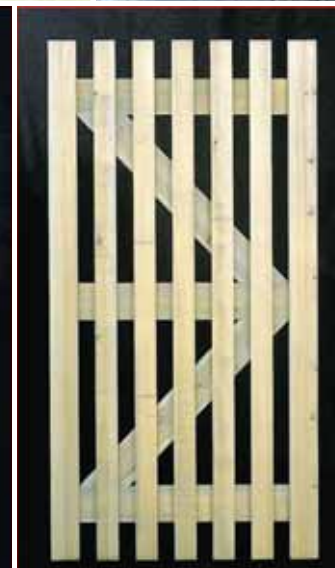
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Why more and more are teeing up for golf and football merger

Take golf, but swap the ball for a football and your club for your legs... **Jamie Weir** checks out footgolf

COMBINING sports can be a rather hit and miss affair... bicycle jousting and the frankly just bizarre chess boxing (you alternate rounds with moving your pieces around the board then trying to hit seven bells out of one another) immediately spring to mind.

But the desire to unite sports continues apace... so it is perhaps little wonder that footgolf has now emerged and is growing in popularity.

Blurring the lines between football and golf, rather than splash out on expensive clubs and those appalling jumpers, you instead simply arm yourself with a football and boot it around a course in a bid to sink it in an oversize hole in the smallest amount of shots (kicks) possible.

Said to have been first conceived as a training aid for professional footballers – the aim then was to kick the ball through a target, or into a bucket at a long distance, it has subsequently been developed and embraced as a sport in its own right.

And there are now an increasing number of venues signing up, with the sport being offered in Gillingham, Folkestone, Maidstone, Orpington and Tonbridge among others

In the early days, accuracy was the key. While participants weren't required to have high levels of fitness or stamina – ideal for players recuperating from injury or just trying to keep their eye in during a period of rest, its appeal soon spread.

First played in 2006, two years later, the first recognised tournament took place in Holland and the bug spread around the world.

Richard Brown works as the regional developer for the sport's UK governing body – the UK Footgolf Association – in Kent. According to Mr Brown, one of the best bits about the sport is that practically anyone can play it.

He said: "Our biggest selling point is that anyone can arrive at a footgolf course, without any equipment, or any technical ability, and they can get straight out onto the course to play.



FORE! Tonbridge Golf Centre's Richard Brown demonstrates why more and more are switching to the new sport on the block

"Families can come along – and regularly do – and there are no barriers to entry. It is a totally inclusive sport, as people don't need any expensive equipment, or any high level of skill. All a player needs is the ability to kick a ball, which means that practically anyone can play."

And that, says Mr Brown, is why it is proving so popular. He says that footgolf is also drawing couples together – one former golf widow now joins her husband on the course every weekend.

"The rules are largely the same as golf, and at many courses you can play alongside traditional golfers at the same time. So people who have friends or relatives who play golf can go out there with them, and spend time with them on the course.

"It's great, as traditionally golf has been stereotyped as a sport which is stuffy, or boring. Getting people who

might never go to a golf course out there, mixing with golfers is great. It gives them a view of what traditional golf is like, while allowing them to play a fun game that doesn't need loads of technical skill straight away."

As clichéd as it may well be, Mr Brown says that people always enjoy doing things they're good at, and that footgolf is likely to give most a bit of a buzz because it's so simple.

"It's great seeing people coming in from a round with big smiles on their faces after they've had a really good time."

The business case, according to James Jones, the owner of the Tonbridge Golf Centre – the newest footgolf club in the county – is clear.

He says that footgolf is one way of combating a global decline in golf memberships.

He told KoS: "For us to be able to tap into the biggest sport is a no-

brainer. It's a huge market, and getting access to another revenue stream to enhance what we already have is great.

"It also gives us access to a greater range of ages. Golfers are normally either quite young, or more mature. Footgolf gives us greater appeal to teens and people in their twenties, which we might not get coming in otherwise."

Find out more about the Kent courses by logging on to the UK Footgolf Association website at www.ukfootgolf.com.



CHIP: Bunkers footgolf style

WE TAKE TO THE COURSE FOR A QUICK ROUND OF FOOTGOLF

TO TRY out the new sport we sent our reporter **Jamie Weir** to the **Tonbridge Golf Centre** to try it out for himself...

I wasn't sure quite what to expect in terms of the mechanics of the game when I first arrived at the Tonbridge Golf Centre for a few holes of footgolf.

I'm neither a golfer, nor a great footballer, so it was with trepidation that I walked out onto the course with Richard Brown, who had agreed to give me a few pointers and show me how to play.

Kit, he said, wasn't an issue – a

good thing, since I'd turned up wearing a suit, and sporting some of the least appropriate footwear possible – my smart work shoes.

But although the complexities of golf can be deep and involving, it's hard not to be able to grasp the core basics.

The first hole was a 73-yarder, with a nice straight shot to the pin. A par three – surely this would be straight forward?

Teeing off felt unusual – for anyone who's been on a golf course, it's an unfamiliar feeling to be told you can boot a ball down

the fairway. But not an unwelcome one. Surely this would be straighter than my normal efforts with a golf club.

I lined up, and whacked the ball as hard as I could manage. The ball soared down the line I'd chosen for it, and rolled slowly to a stop just off the green.

Nice, thought I – sadly, when Mr Brown tee'd off, he put my effort to shame, rolling up on the green in one. My short game wasn't all it could be either, but despite a couple of shots which saw me roll straight past the hole, I finally sunk

my ball one over par. That was still two shots behind my playing companion, but despite that, I absolutely loved it. The next few holes were played in a blur of bunkers, water hazards, aggressive tee shots, and a slightly improved short game.

Although I lost, I had a smile on my face throughout. In fact, I don't think I've ever had that much fun playing a competitive sport when I wasn't winning.

And, as a sport, it does give a reasonable level of exercise too. It's not ever going to be great training

for the marathon, or even a 10k run, but to get off the sofa, as a recuperative exercise or just a fun activity which will help shift some over enthusiastic dining, it's absolutely perfect. And literally anyone who can kick a ball can get involved.

I'm no whiz kid with a ball, and while it showed on my scorecard, it's so enjoyable it barely matters. Equally, even if you're not a pro, you can be assured of a reasonable score at the end, so it's perfect for families or groups of friends who want an enjoyable, simple, equipment free sport.

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Pressure grows for decision on third crossing

Sarah Linney looks at the £15m-a-year delay which appears no nearer resolution despite mounting fears

PULL your finger out – That, in short, is the message the government is being given over progress on a new lower Thames crossing, following a report earlier this month which said the UK had suffered from too much short-term planning.

It comes amid mounting concerns the decision could end up simply being kicked from one Parliamentary term to the next given the cost and potential for it failing to provide the long term solution necessary.

The report, by the House of Commons transport committee, said delays at the existing crossing at Dartford were costing the UK some £15 million each year.

But Dartford Borough Council leader Jeremy Kite says it is better to take time and make the right choice on where the site should go – rather than rush the decision and get it wrong.

The Department for Transport is considering two options for a new crossing – a bridge alongside the Dartford Crossing, or a new crossing connecting the M2 with the A13 and the M25 between junctions 29 and 30, east of Gravesend.

The report said the government had taken a “short-term approach” to crossings across the country, leaving “many estuary areas with inadequate transport capacity”, and wasting money by building crossings which became unable to cope as traffic increased.

Committee chairman Louise Ellman added: “As far as Dartford is concerned, ministers have done little over the past five years to build the kind of consensus between local authorities that is required in order to reconcile national transport objectives and respect local concerns.”

It was a view echoed by the Tunbridge Wells-based Freight Transport Association.

Head of road network policy Malcolm Bingham said: “All too often we seek to just unblock the congestion we have rather than considering the long-term needs of the country.”

“We fail to plan adequately for future development and growth and this lack of action is constraining the competitiveness of the UK.”

Head of policy Natalie Chapman said that despite the benefits of removing the toll booths, a process which begin in November and will conclude next month, data from the DfT suggested congestion northbound on the crossing would be back to the old levels by 2020.

“We have growth areas and then we think about how we need the infrastructure to support them,” she said.

“With successive governments, you get to a certain point and then it gets put into the ‘too difficult box’. And then there is a change of government and it gets scrapped because it was the previous government’s idea. This is not just something peculiar to Dartford.

“This needs to have cross-party political



THE OPTION ALREADY SHELVED...

THERE are currently two options being considered for the lower Thames crossing, referred to as Options A and C.

But when the plans were first proposed, a third was included too - referred to as Option B.

This would have seen a connection made between the A2 Swanscombe Peninsula and the A1089 near Grays, Essex.

Those in favour of it said it could improve commuting times and local journeys between Kent and Essex.

But this was not to be.

An early decision was made to rule it out and it was discarded amid fears that it would risk potential disruption to the proposed London Paramount Resort theme park, which will

be located on the Swanscombe Peninsula.

The route for Option B would have cut through the development sites in north Kent, which could have proved to be a dilemma and held up the work. It didn't have a huge amount of support from the world go.

Of the 1,159 people who responded to consultations

about the new crossing and where it should be placed, only five per cent expressed a preference for it being located there.

Both Dartford Borough Council and members of the Thames Gateway North Kent partnership urged that it should be discarded as quickly as possible.



“ We need a decision urgently to alleviate future problems. It is something we have failed to address for a long time. Even if approved today we'd not see a crossing until 2020 ”

Natalie Chapman,
FTA's head of policy

support at an early planning stage. The government needs to take a strategic view, and they need good information and data modelling so they can come up with a solution based on evidence, and with measures to minimise the impact on communities and the environment.”

And she said that hanging about would have negative consequences – and not just for drivers.

“We need a decision urgently to alleviate future problems, and it is something we have failed to address for a long time,” Ms Chapman said.

“Even if something is approved today we are not going to see a new crossing by 2020.

“It is a difficult decision, because there is always going to be local opposition to new infrastructure, but the longer it takes to start constructing the crossing, the longer we are going to have to live with delays, congestion and the impact on air quality.”

But Cllr Kite said he wanted the decision on where the new crossing would be to be the right one – even if that took time.

“This has impacts on both communities, Dartford and Gravesend, and they need to get it right,” he said.

“I am less concerned about the time they take than the wisdom of their decision.

“The work is going on – it's not that they have put it on a shelf – but it sounds to me like they are drilling down into the detail

“If they are working with some fairly serious data, it is not that easy just to say ‘we will put it here’.”

And he said that history showed that making decisions of this sort too quickly was not the best plan.

“In the past, every time transport infrastructure has been designed at speed, it has tended to go wrong,” Cllr Kite said.

“Look at the high speed rail link. One design had it going through Leeds Castle.

“But they spent another couple of years getting the route right and we now have a Channel Tunnel rail link that works well for everyone and hasn't disturbed many communities.”

Gravesend council is equally opposed. Leader John Burden said: “The Gravesend east options would rip a gaping hole in the Green Belt and potentially decimate the environment and the communities of Chalk, Shorne and Higham.”

For more information on the lower Thames crossing read our essential guide by searching www.kentnews.co.uk.



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Detecting trouble: The treasure hunters digging up our heritage

Dubbed 'nighthawkers', those armed with metal detectors and trespassing on historic sites or across farmers' fields are once again causing a headache for landowners. But now police are cracking down

By Maria Chiorando

maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk

HISTORICAL monuments, archeological remains and hidden treasures are being swiped by what have been dubbed 'nighthawkers'.

Nighthawking is the illegal search and removal of artefacts using a metal detector. And it can cause damage to, among other things, property, crops and archeological sites.

According to Kevin Attwood, of the National Farmers' Union: "It is a problem in the county, and there are two levels. The first one is the low level, individuals with metal detectors looking around on land they are not meant to be on.

"They are more of an irritant than anything, and when approached, they will generally leave.

"The other level is more organised and tends to be on farm land, or where there are listed monuments. It's more illicit, usually at night and can cause a lot of damage. We do see both levels across parts of Kent, and it ebbs and flows."

To try and tackle the issue, English Heritage – the organisation which seeks to protect and maintain many of the nation's historic sites – launched a heritage crime programme five years ago.

It has handled more than 130 cases since 2011, with chief inspector Mark Harrison from Kent Police being

drafted in as a national policing and crime advisor. He is pleased with the progress.

"In five years, we have gone from almost doing nothing in terms of law enforcement to having a national policing lead and 16 specialist prosecutors," he says.

"What's difficult to assess is how successful we have been in deterring potential offenders, but I think we clearly have had an effect.

"In terms of repeated nighthawking at individual sites, we seem to have deterred people from doing that by sending out strong messages when we do take action, training police officers and working with landowners to make sure they call in any suspicious behaviour."

The damage caused by nighthawkers can have far-reaching consequences.

A spokesman for English Heritage explained: "Removal of archaeological material can irretrievably distort the archaeological 'signature' of a site, or even destroy it altogether.

"Artefacts retrieved from primary contexts in this way lose much or all of their potential to inform about the past, and may suffer substantial damage.

"Destruction of archaeological layers and the removal of objects does not just affect the archaeologists' understanding of a site but also destroys that information and knowledge of our shared heritage, which should be available to all."

Robin Edwards, the south east di-



rector of CLA, a member organisation for business, property and land owners, adds: "There is the trespass issue, but also the cultural issue. These illegal finds are not recorded properly, and these items are often taken abroad, where they get lost to us - or sold online."

The Portable Antiquities Scheme, which records articles of archaeological interest found by members of the public, has a team that monitors online auction site eBay. The team flags up and questions sellers with suspicious goods. However, it is believed many slip under the radar. It is a difficult crime to police.

An English Heritage spokesman said: "Information on arrests and prosecutions for nighthawking

proved difficult to obtain as a result of heritage crime not being a recordable offence by police, but it is clear that there have not been large numbers of either arrests or prosecutions, which many think encourages a belief that nighthawking is a low-risk crime.

"Even when apprehended the punishment imposed on a nighthawk is less now than it was ten years ago.

"Police awareness of, and concern about, heritage crime appears to depend on individual officers who take an interest."

According to the CLA's Mr Edwards: "We know that police in this county recognise the issue, and they work with landowners and organisations like English Heritage to ensure it is reported and steps are taken to prosecute perpetrators and recover stolen items.

"It is also important to ask members of the public as well as landowners and farmers to be vigilant in reporting people who look like they are somewhere they shouldn't be, doing something they shouldn't be doing."

Nighthawkers can also bring the practice of metal detecting into disrepute, although they are two very different activities.

John Stocker is the chairman of the Invicta Seekers, a metal detecting club that supports the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance.

He says: "Organised metal detecting, which is done legally is very different to nighthawking. We do it without fear, without looking over our shoulder - you are there with

the knowledge of the farmer. We don't do it for gain. That is not the objective.

"We have a liaison officer who will come to club meetings every three months so we can record all our finds, and if we find a big haul, which is extremely rare and has not happened so far, we let the authorities know immediately.

"Most metal detectorists really respect history, so we would never knowingly do something that might damage an important artefact.

"We pride ourselves on our honesty - anyone treating other people's property badly will be given a warning, and if it happens again they will be expelled from the club.

"You cannot compare nighthawking with legitimate metal detecting. It is so important to make that distinction, because they give us a bad name. They are doing it without permission, with no conscience and are destroying our history."

Trevor Austin, the general secretary for the National Council for Metal Detecting, agrees, saying: "Positive action is the key rather than the counterproductive approach whereby heritage professionals sought to portray all metal detector users as somehow illicit because of the activities of a few criminals using a metal detector as a tool of their trade.

"With the help of the police's Mark Harrison this image has been unequivocally redefined to make it clear that illicit detector users and responsible hobbyists are not the same."

GIVEAWAY: Demand was high for Dover Castle. Picture: Visit Kent



“ Visitors are our best advocates and the more people that appreciate the huge diversity of attractions and places to visit the better- we know they tell their friends and family what an amazing day out they’ve had ”

Bill Ferris OBE,
Chatham's Historic Dockyard

Tourism ticket giveaway success

Thousands of people ventured out to see what was on offer after Visit Kent provided them with free tickets to the county's top attractions. **Molly Kersey** speaks to organisers behind the annual event...

ORGANISERS of last week's big tourism ticket giveaway, the My Kent Big Weekend, have hailed it another great success as thousands flocked to the county's top attractions.

The annual event sees tickets offered to those in the county with the hope that it will kick-start the tourist season and spread the word about the attractions on our door-step.

More than 100,000 applications were made for the 20,000 tickets up for grabs.

Taking place at the end of National Tourism Week, an event which runs from March 14 to 22 and aims to shine a spotlight on the importance of the tourism industry, My Kent Big Weekend has become a flagship event in the national programme.

"It went brilliantly well," said Ruth Wood, head of research and strategy at Visit Kent, the event's organiser, and the county's tourism champions.

"It's just grown year on year.

"We were monitoring social media and our enquiries inbox over the weekend and had nothing but really positive comments.

"We have got lots of people emailing us to say thank you for a great day out."

The event holds an important spot on the social calendar, helping to boost local businesses and get people exploring Kent attractions, with the hope that they will keep coming back.

Championing the county's £3.2bn tourism industry, which provides some 64,000 jobs, the impact of the event is not to be underestimated.

"We know the biggest thing that gets people to go to attractions is getting a good recommendation from friends and family," said Ms Wood.

"It's like getting thousands of visitors for the county in one go.

"Our research from previous years

shows secondary spend in shops and cafes increases and the National Trust sees membership increase at this time of the year."

Perhaps more than in years gone by, the organisers were keen to use social media – the likes of Facebook and Twitter – to spread the word far and wide.

"It's definitely played a very big part in promoting the event and this year we did a Twitter and Facebook competition inviting people to share photos of their day out," Ms Wood explained.

Photos of smiling faces flooded Twitter as the event launched a 'selfie' competition, and people were also given the opportunity to share a picture of the Kent attraction that they visited on Facebook.

"Nine years ago social media hadn't taken off," Ms Wood explained.

And Visit Kent are keen to expand the event even further in the future.

"We are always looking to develop it," said Ms Wood.

"We have quite a lot of national interest in other areas.

"This year was the second year that we worked with the Family Holiday Association, a charity that helps children in need, who can't afford to go on holiday. We are hoping to expand that side of things as well."

Visit Kent donated 2,000 tickets to the worthy cause this year.

More than 100 big and small attractions donated free tickets, with locations including Canterbury Cathedral, Penshurst Place and Chatham's Historic Dockyard signing up to take part.

Bill Ferris OBE, chief executive of the Historic Dockyard Chatham, said this year's event had been another great success.

He explained: "It's really important for us here at the dockyard and



WILDLIFE: Port Lympne was one of the most popular attractions this year. Picture: Visit Kent

all Kent attractions to be part of this wonderful initiative, which allows Kent residents to discover what's on their doorstep.

"We have supported it since it began back in 2008 and it's great to see hundreds of local people having the chance to visit and enjoy the dockyard, free of charge for the weekend."

He added: "My Kent Big Weekend has allowed us to be part of a worthwhile Kent-wide initiative and has definitely raised the awareness of the dockyard within the county.

"Visitors are our best advocates and the more people that appreciate the huge diversity of attractions and places to visit the better – we know that they go home and tell their friends and family what an amazing day out they've had."

Port Lympne and Howletts, which are both managed by charity the As-

pinall Foundation, also took part in this year's popular event and had a large number of people attending.

They were, once again, among the most in demand tickets from families in the county.

Bob O'Connor, managing director of Howletts, in Bokesbourne, near Canterbury, and Port Lympne, near Hythe, explained: "We've been taking part in My Kent Big Weekend with Visit Kent for a number of years.

"It's a fantastic way to promote tourism in Kent and I'm always delighted to see how many people apply for tickets.

"Howletts and Port Lympne are consistently the most popular visitor attractions that take part and this year, the applications for tickets to both parks was just under 12,000."

Kent on Sunday were one of a number of media partners for this year's event.



SITE: Penshurst Place (Visit Kent)

INSPECTION SUCCESS

AT KENT COLLEGE, WHERE EXCELLENCE IS A HABIT



Many schools may be pleased to be recognised as excellent (or as the top grade used to be, 'outstanding') in one or two areas of an inspection report but Kent College is delighted that the ISI inspection team of 18 which visited in January judged the school to be excellent in every aspect. This follows on from the last ISI inspection in 2009 and an Ofsted boarding inspection in 2011 where all areas were deemed 'outstanding'.

Since the previous inspection in 2009, the college has undertaken a number of curriculum changes to further its commitment to the development of individuals: restructuring of setting arrangements; introduction of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma alongside A Levels; extended teaching time; the addition of new subjects; one-to-one computer provision; an increase in accelerated learning programmes and bespoke timetabling. The house system has been restructured to enhance integration and many teaching and boarding facilities have been extended and improved.



Kent College is very successful in meeting its aims. The pupils' achievements and learning are excellent.

Pupils achieve excellent results.

Pupils benefit from an excellent and inventive curriculum. Bespoke timetabling enables the college to meet pupils' subject choices and, for instance, additional practice time for advanced athletes or musicians. Pupils are recognised as individuals and all staff take pride in encouraging and supporting each to achieve his or her best.

The pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is excellent.



THE QUALITY OF PASTORAL CARE IS EXCELLENT. THE COLLEGE IS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL IN PROMOTING GOOD BEHAVIOUR. A CULTURE OF CARE PERVADES ALL AREAS OF THE COLLEGE.

Since 2012 a cohort of pupils has taken IB examinations. Their results have been exceptional in relation to the worldwide average and have regularly placed Kent College in the top ten schools nationally. Alongside this, students have enjoyed success in A levels with 77% of all grades at A*-B last summer and 5* GCSE results match the best selective schools. Pupils are equally successful in achieving high levels in a wide range of co-curricular activities with notable successes in national science and mathematics competitions. Many pupils learn a musical instrument; participation in concerts and dramatic performances is high, with individual and group **success at national level**. In games, pupils represent county and national teams in hockey, which is a particular strength. County and national recognition has also been achieved in a range of individual pursuits, including cross-country, skiing, riding and tennis.

EXCELLENT TEACHING

Excellent teaching based on teachers' strong subject knowledge and an accurate understanding of each pupil's needs, encourages academic rigour, curiosity, and critical awareness at all levels, is complemented by the time and commitment given by staff outside the classroom, where extra support is always available, often in the form of well-attended 'drop-in' clinics. Individual pupils also receive specifically tailored help.

Relationships between staff and pupils are excellent.



Pupils are enthusiastic and committed learners, they are engaging and outgoing, conversing confidently with adults and each other. Pupils take pride in their work and aspire to achieve to the best of their abilities, their personal development is excellent.

Pupils' behaviour towards one another is excellent, reflecting the school's primary aim to be a caring community. Pupils listen carefully to each other's views and are supportive of each other. Pupils are confident, courteous and caring young people with a strong social conscience and an appreciation of the wider world: they engage in a variety of charitable activities. They are well prepared to lead happy and fulfilling lives. They are proud of their school and its central part in their lives.

A spirit of innovation and development pervades Kent College with a palpable sense of connected thinking and shared vision.

This is a summary of the inspection report - why not arrange a visit and find out for yourself?

Academic, Art, Drama, Music and Sports Scholarships are awarded for years 7, 9 and 12.

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'WE ARE WHAT WE REPEATEDLY DO. EXCELLENCE, THEN, IS NOT AN ACT, BUT A HABIT.'

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REUNION: It is 34 years since that Eurovision win



Cheryl, Jay and Mike from Bucks Fizz reunite for UK tour

After 34 years, legal wranglings and a personnel change, the band are back...

IT'S more than 30 years since Bucks Fizz won Eurovision with their skirt-ripping performance.

With a new member joining the three original members - Cheryl, Jay and Mike are going on tour again, and Cheryl Baker says their Dartford leg could be considered as something of a homecoming.

They will also be performing at Rochester Castle as part of the Castle Concerts event this summer.

The band, formed to enter Eurovision in 1981, won with their song Making Your Mind Up.

They went on to have a successful career around the world, with the single becoming number one in nine countries.

The band also topped the UK charts with three number one tracks.

The original members of Bucks

Fizz were Bobby G, Cheryl, Mike Nolan and Jay Aston.

After famous legal wranglings over the name, and band member changes, Ms Baker, Mr Nolan and Ms Aston will be performing around the country.

KoS managed to steal a few minutes with Ms Baker while rehearsals were in full swing, to discuss the upcoming tour, legal wranglings and who really was the mastermind behind those velco-skirts.

"It came about by chance. We were sitting in a house in Fulham talking about outfits for the performance and throwing around ideas," she explains.

"The conversation went on and on, and I threw it into the pot to shake people up.

"It went onto become part of the show, and is now an iconic piece of

Eurovision history."

According to Ms Baker, the band don't socialise, but like most colleagues, have a good working relationship.

"We don't tend to see each other outside of performing," she explains. "It is good to see everyone again though."

The show is likely to appeal to longtime fans of the band.

Ms Baker says: "We like to say you are getting more fizz for your bucks."

"We don't have a support act, it is just us, so it's a good long performance. We're rehearsing hard, and it's going well.

"People who are interested in the nostalgia will come and see us.

"Maybe they will bring their children, but we're not thinking about building a new fanbase at this point, it's more likely to be

existing fans.

"For us, we are really looking forward to playing in Dartford, as three of us live in Kent.

"I've been living in the county for so long, I consider myself a native."

While happy to be back on stage, she laughs off any suggestions that they might take part in Eurovision again.

"No way - it's time for some fresh blood, and time to leave it to the youngsters," Ms Baker says. "We've already done that."

The show will be at The Orchard Theatre on April 6 at 7.30pm.

To book tickets or for more information, visit orchardtheatre.co.uk.

You can also call the Ticket Office on 01322 220000.

For information about their Rochester Castle gig, visit the website at www.thecastleconcerts.co.uk.

» Email us details of your event to: editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
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Classic Aladdin re-imaged by cutting-edge dance company

By Maria Chiorando

maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk

THE Orchard Theatre will be hosting performances of Ballet Theatre UK's Aladdin next month.

The story follows the life of a lonely orphan destined for greater things.

Tricked by an evil sorcerer, Aladdin goes on a quest to search for the ultimate treasure, on the way he is swept along on a carpet ride to a world of adventure, enchanting spells, riches beyond the imagination, treachery and true love.

Aladdin, the ballet, sees a deceived street rat left alone in a dark and damp cave, where he will uncover a life changing object... a dusty old lamp.

With just one rub of the magical lamp, Aladdin's world changes forever and he embarks on a journey like no other.

The costumes and expressive dancers recreate this age old tale in a new way.

Ballet Theatre UK was founded by artistic director Christopher Moore.

It has become one of the UK's most popular touring companies. A classical dance company, with a unique approach, it raises awareness of dance within the community by being accessible to people from all ages and walks of life, both nationally and internationally.

Mr Moore takes inspiration from an eclectic mix of classical dance, theatre, popular culture and literature.

This, in turn, allows him to further explore and develop the timeless classical ballets and to create new and ground-breaking original productions.

The show will be at The Orchard Theatre on April 7 at two times – a matinee at 2pm and an early evening performance at 5pm.

Dining seats are also available before the show at the Orchard Theatre's restaurant - you can reserve your table when booking your show tickets.

For more information about the show, or to reserve tickets, you can visit the website at orchardtheatre.co.uk.

You can also call the box office on 01322 220000.



EXPRESSIVE: The company interpret and re-imagine the Aladdin story as a ballet

New York music in the city

NEW YORK ska band The Toasters will play at Canterbury's Lady Luck on April 6, with doors opening at 7.30pm. To buy tickets, which cost £7.70, visit www.wegotickets.com.



Danger takes centre stage

ILLUSIONIST Jamie Allan will perform one of the most dangerous stage illusions at Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall.

The show takes place on April 2, and tickets cost from £11.90 plus a £2.85 transaction fee.

Call 0844 8713015 or visit www.atgtickets.com/folkestone.

Dance with Radio DJ

DANCE outfit Annie Mac DJ at Maidstone's Source Vodka Bar on May 3.

Tickets cost between £27.50 and £40.

For more information, visit www.skiddle.com



Guess weight of giant egg

THE Chocolate Pot in Folkestone is holding a competition to guess the weight of a giant egg.

Entry costs £1 for as many guesses as you like, and the winner gets to keep the giant egg.

Proceeds go to Demelza Children's Hospice. To enter, go to www.tinyurl.com/DemelzaEgg or go to the shop at 8A, The Old High Street.



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- ★ Day Glo Indy Darc Puppet show

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Something a bit different

THE Flower Pot in Sandling Road, Maidstone, will host a music night on March 31.

There will be blues, country and folk as well as poetry and stand-up comedy.

Entry is free, starts at 9pm.



Offbeat comedy on stage

KOOKY comic Tom Stade will be appearing at the Orchard Theatre in Dartford on April 2 at 8pm.

Tickets cost £17.

For more information about the show, or to buy tickets, call 01322 220000 or visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

A classic soul survivor

SOUL singer Linda Lewis will perform at Ramsgate Music Hall on April 2 at 7.30pm.

Ms Lewis has released 10 albums since 1971 and sang at the first Glastonbury festival. Call 01843 591815.



Last night I dreamt...

AN adaptation of Daphne Du Maurier's classic novel Rebecca comes to the stage.

The Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury will show the play from March 30 to April 4.

Tickets cost from £14.50.

For more information, or to book, call 01227 787787 or visit www.marlowetheatre.com.

Bootleg Beatles hit the road to mark 35th year

By Maria Chiorando

maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk

THE Bootleg Beatles are touring the UK - and will be stopping in Tunbridge Wells next month.

This year marks 35 years in the business for the band.

The year 2015 is also significant Beatle-wise as it is the 50th anniversary of the release of huge hit Ticket to Ride.

The bootleg band started in 1980, and is described as the best Beatles' imitation group.

They are of course inspired by The Beatles - one of the most famous musical outfits of all time.

The band - John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr - were from Liverpool. They formed in the early sixties, and made it big after spending some time touring across Europe.

As well as releasing numerous albums, including Hard Day's Night, Revolver, Rubber Soul and Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, the four musicians - known as the 'lovable mop-tops' because of their shaggy hairdos, also made several films.

The band split in the late



seventies, but continue to have a huge following, and are considered to be one of the most significant rock bands of all time.

The Bootleg Beatles are formed from the original cast of London's West End hit show 'Beatlemania'. The Bootleg Beatles have become 'an institution' in their own right with their note-perfect recreation of hits from every era of the world's most famous songbook.

Every detail is covered from costumes to authentic period instruments; from the 'Liverpool-

lian' banter to their 'inflection perfect' vocal mimicry.

The Bootleg Beatles will play at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells on April 2.

You can find out more information about the band and their tour by calling the theatre's box office on 01892 530613.

You can also buy tickets online by visiting www.ticketmaster.co.uk.

Tickets are priced from £28.50 and all tickets are subject to a booking fee.



DETAIL: Everything is replicated perfectly



UNCANNY: The band have a good likeness to the originals

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Easter - Your Guide To Days Out

Advertisers' announcements



Get on board famous train line

AS we look forward to better weather and begin to plan for a well-earned Easter break with family and friends, it is a good time to remind you all just how lovely the landscape of the Romney Marsh is in springtime, with the new-born lambs skipping in the fields and the swans nesting on the banks of the Royal Military Canal.

Both of which can be seen from the enclosed carriages of the world famous 15" narrow gauge Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway, which has been operating in this corner of Kent since 1927.

Board a train at any of our six stations and explore a variety of different activities and landmarks along the way.

Our station at Hythe is just three miles from the M20, junction 11 (just put CT21 6LD into your sat nav).

Our station at Dymchurch is just a five minute walk from the centre of this traditional seaside town with its selection of charming shops, children's funfair, cafes and beach.

Our station at New Romney is where you will find our superb Model Railway Exhibition, a play park complete with picnic tables, and a shop stocked full of toys and gifts for visitors of all ages.

Only five miles away, and 35 minute by steam train (although please note, a limited amount of scheduled trains will be diesel) from New Romney, is Dungeness Station. Why not enjoy a plate of freshly-cooked fish and chips from the Light Railway Café or sit in



the garden overlooking the platform (if the weather co-operates) and watch our world famous miniature steam trains wind their way across this unique landscape, with the Old Light-house just a stone's-throw away.

We hope that our "kids eat free" voucher will enable families to pay us a visit during the Easter school holidays and enjoy the delights of this very special heritage railway.

Just visit our website at www.rhdr.org.uk

and download the voucher. Terms and conditions apply.

We commenced daily running on March 21, with an intensive 45 minute service operating all over the Easter Bank Holiday weekend – April 4, 5 and 6 to April 15. The railway's famous all day, all stations Romney-Rover ticket, at just £17 for adults, £15 for senior citizens and £8.50 for children between 3 and 15 years. Or £45 for two adults and up to three children

or one adult and up to four children is great value for money, especially as it includes free entrance to the Model Railway Exhibition.

Plus, to entertain our young visitors on Easter Sunday, we will be running a Hunt The Easter Egg competition. Keep an eye out for that mischievous Romney Bear who may be making an appearance on Easter Sunday. Visit our website www.rhdr.org.uk or call us on 01797 362353 for more details.



School's out for Easter

2nd to 19th April 2015

Kids Eat Free Voucher
Easter school holiday
Voucher valid 2nd to 19th April 2015
Excluding Sun 5th & Mon 6th April 2015
Download from our website
www.rhdr.org.uk

Plus on Easter Sunday 5th April
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Easter - Your Guide To Days Out

Advertisers' announcements



Stay at the heart

STAY in the heart of the Garden of England next to Leeds Castle at the Mercure Maidstone Great Danes Hotel.

The rambling 26-acre estate has plenty of space for rural walks alongside the fully-equipped Feel Good Health Club.

It has everything you need to help unwind. Complimentary high speed WiFi is available throughout the hotel too to ensure you can keep in touch wherever you may be.

Soak up the atmosphere of its contemporary restaurant, and choose from a diverse collection of mouth-watering dishes prepared using fresh ingredients and locally-sourced produce.

To complement your meal, choose from its extensive selection of fine wines; from Australia to Italy there's something to suit every palate.

Finally, indulge in one of its delicious desserts before sitting back, relaxing and allowing its experienced and helpful restaurant team to provide you



with everything you need.

It is perfectly positioned too.

Not only does it have the splendour of Leeds Castle as a neighbour – one of the most picturesque and popular tourist attractions in the county, it also has easy access to key transport links.

The M20 is nearby, allowing fast access by car to the coast or London and the rest of the road network.

Just a few minutes down the motorway is Ashford. Its international rail station can whisk you into Paris in less than two hours.

You can also reach the station easily by hopping onboard a connecting service from Maidstone East railway station - just five miles away from the hotel. Whatever your need, the Mercure Maidstone Great Danes Hotel can provide.



Make it a Thorley's day

TAKE advantage of the extra-long weekend this Easter and the forecasted warmer weather by the sea.

Thorley Taverns offers four fantastic venues all ideally located overlooking the Channel and surrounding golden beaches with food, drinks and entertainment for all the family.

The Captain Digby, Kingsgate, offers fun for all the family with its large indoor play area for the kids, cliff top restaurant and outside dining area overlooking Kingsgate Bay.

Visit www.captaindigby.co.uk for more information and to book a table.

The Tartar Frigate Seafood Restaurant has been referred to as one of the best in Kent, with its stunning views over the award-winning Viking Bay and finest seafood served in the first floor restaurant.

On the ground floor the traditional pub serves great real ale and provides live music over the Bank Holiday Weekend. Visit www.tartarfrigate.co.uk to book.

Across the road is the Broadstairs Pavilion on the Sands with its large veranda seating up to 100 customers to enjoy the views and sunshine and recently opened conservatory with retractable roof. The large

garden and beach nearby makes this another ideal venue for all the family. For the 'grown-ups' on Easter Sunday from 7.30pm the ever popular 80's Night Party Night returns – for tickets and more information visit www.pavilion-broadstairs.co.uk

Up on the cliff top with stunning panoramic views of Viking Bay and the harbour, the Charles Dickens provides top quality 'gastro' food and a wide selection of beers and wines from around the world. Live entertainment features over the Easter Weekend. See the website for details charlesdickensbroadstairs.co.uk



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Book now
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TARTAR FRIGATE

Widely renowned as one of the best seafood restaurants in Kent, the Harbour Restaurant boasts stunning panoramic views over Viking Bay. If seafood isn't for you take advantage of the extensive menu which includes mouth watering dishes from around the world.

Book online at
www.tartarfrigate.co.uk
or call 01843 862013
and enjoy yourself this Easter!



Easter - Your Guide To Days Out

Advertisers' announcements



Caves reveal smuggling past

DEEP in the heart of Hastings' West Hill lies the Smugglers Adventure, acres of caverns that conceal the thrilling history of smuggling.

More than 70 life-size characters, interactive displays, eerie lighting, sound effects and dramatic recreations bring this mysterious and often bloody world vividly to life.

St Clements Caves were formed around 14,000 BC, during the last Ice Age.

Ever since, these mysterious caves have had a fascinating part to play in the history of the area.

St Clements Caves have served as a home, a hospital, an air-raid shelter and a ballroom and over their long history have been visited by everyone from the Rolling Stones to royalty.



Today they provide the perfect backdrop for a vivid recreation of the dark and often bloody story of smuggling along the Sussex coast.

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Richard Miles is a trained master butcher and has covered every aspect of livestock from field to table. Dennis Turner has worked in the family business specialising in game serving both the UK and Europe.



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EAGLE Heights is one of the UK's largest bird of prey centres.

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It also has an expanding wildlife sanctuary for many different species of animals, including huskies, meerkats, snakes, lizards, donkey, camel and much more.

Eagle Heights is situated in the stunning village of Eynsford overlooking the idyllic views of the valley and the rolling hills of the countryside. These beautiful views can be seen from the tea-rooms where you can admire them with a warm pot of tea.

It offers a site which is fully accessible to the disabled and welcomes all group types and sizes.

What's more, you can also snap up falconry 'experience days', animals 'experience days', animal adoptions and much more. All make for fantastic gifts.

It also holds demonstrations throughout the day to educate members of the public on conservation, ecology and population dynamics.



A spokesman explained: "We believe that by holding these demonstrations we can inspire the public, young and old, to understand more about wildlife and conservation and judging by the response we have, this is definitely the case."

"All of our animals give the visitors a close up and personal experience that allows them to interact with these animals like never before."

Admission at the site in Lullingstone Lane in Eynsford, for adults is £7.95, for students, the disabled and OAPs £5.95 and £4.95 for children (4-14).

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Easter - Your Guide To Days Out

Advertisers' announcements



Donate to create chimps' home

AT THE end of this summer Wingham Wildlife Park is planning to bring a group of eight chimpanzees from the USA to the UK after they are retired from the Yerkes research facility.

This is a very important project for the park. And with a £1 million budget, the park is looking for help with this ambitious project, as Tony Binskin, the park's owner explains: "At our park we have worked on a number of projects giving animals a new home to live out the rest of their lives with us, whether it is lions from a circus or macaques from the illegal pet trade."

"These very special chimps have a long journey ahead of them, but with a custom-built enclosure we hope that their final destination here in the Garden of England will be worth it."

This long journey will include a very pricy flight from Atlanta, and the final destination is going to be a brand new custom-built enclosure so the park is looking at a variety of different ways to raise these funds. These include members of staff being sponsored to shave, cash donations and a raffle and auction



which will be held at a special fund raising event on May 15.

Adds Mr Binskin: "The fundraising event is going to be a really special one for us, as it is the first one we have held at our park. It will be from 6pm on May 15, giving people a chance to see what the animals get up to in the evenings, and at £5 per head it's a really cheap evening at the park."

Jackie Binskin, Mr Binskin's wife, went on: "We know that lots of people don't like to donate money because even though people can see the changes being made at the park, they might








not know exactly where the money is going, which is why we are also running our Gifts for Chimps campaign through the Amazon wish list system."

Tony Binskin explained: "People get to choose what their donation buys for the chimps and can see exactly where it goes and Amazon do the rest, by sending the gifts direct to us. They are even addressed to the chimps."

To have a look at the wish list go to www.amazon.co.uk/registry/wishlist/1J969C6ARWKB3 or use the QR code on this page using your mobile phone or tablet device.

If you do buy something from the wish list please email info@winghamwildlifepark.co.uk with details of your purchase and we will give you the following as a thank you when you spend: £29.99 or less for a shout out on Facebook; £30-£74.99 for a shout out plus a black-coloured plaque which will go on to the chimp enclosure once it is complete and be on it permanently); £75-£149.99 for a shout out plus a silver-coloured plaque; and £150 or more for a shout out plus a gold-coloured plaque.





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Easter - Your Guide To Days Out

Advertisers' announcements



Fast-paced fun at Buckmore Park

IT SEEMS that those nice people at Buckmore Park Karting got a book of puns for Christmas and they are determined to make good use of it.

We asked them what they had cooked up for the Easter Holiday and this is what they said...

"We are egg-static about our plans for Easter. It's no yolk; we are truly egg-cited about our 'beat the fastest lap of the day on the Buckmore Simulator' competition.

"You can win your very own medal if you are the fastest of the day and if you aren't fast enough you will get your very own egg just for taking part.

"You can have a go on any of the following 'Turn Up 'n' Drive' days over the Easter school holiday. These are planned for April 3, 6, 8, 14 and 16 of April between 10am and 4pm. Don't be chicken, come and have a go."

See what we mean!

The circuit has also planned an Easter egg lucky dip for the kids on the above dates. Their now famous family days, where everyone from 4 to 84 can have a go are planned for Easter Monday (April 6) and Thursday, April 16.



If you lead a busy life and can't risk long queues, the circuit have introduced a new pre-bookable day (Friday Family Fun) on Friday, April 10.

It gives you the chance to enjoy some high-speed action on the circuit where Formula One heroes Jenson Button and Lewis Hamilton first learned their trade.

Also new for 2015 are Laser Warfare Open sessions, set in an authentic warzone, with base camps for each team, bunkers for hiding, sand bags for ambushes, camouflage gear for extra stealth and of course the all important missions to complete. There is no need to book, if you are aged eight years and over you can just turn up on

April 8 or 13 to take part. It costs £7.50 per person/per game. There's no minimum number, but it is a maximum of 18.

Find out details of all the special offers on www.buckmore4kids.co.uk to book or find out more. Alternatively call 01634 661612 or email sales@buckmore.co.uk.



The circuit is no stranger to the big names. Over the years, it has played host to Princess Diana who brought her then-young sons, Harry and William down to have a go on the circuit, plus the likes of F1 supremo Bernie Ecclestone; and the only man to have won world championships of both two and four wheels, John Surtees.

The Red Lion

Sunday Lunch

1 course £10.50, 2 courses £13.50,
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On 15th, 16th & 17th May The Anchor holds it's annual music festival "Woodnestock". There is free music in the Garden from 1pm on Saturday and Sunday. Upstairs from 6pm you can enjoy a whole host of acts of all genres including **The Meow Meows, Gentlemen of Few, Diana Emmanuelle, The Daydream Club**. Tickets are now available from the pub or by ringing **01227 720392**

Entertainment Schedule over the Easter period gives you a very good reason to visit us

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1/4 **Dangerous Dave's Fun Quiz**. £1 entry, cash prizes, starts 8pm sharp

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5/4 "Brendan Power & Joe Jones".
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Easter - Your Guide To Days Out

Advertisers' announcements



Park up and enjoy town centre

ASHFORD Borough Council has introduced free parking at certain times in select council-run car parks across the borough.

The free parking scheme, which was rolled out in October 2014, includes numerous car parks across Ashford and Tenterden.

On Sundays and Bank Holidays, parking is free all day at the Edinburgh Road multi-story car park, ideal for those visiting the farmers' market.

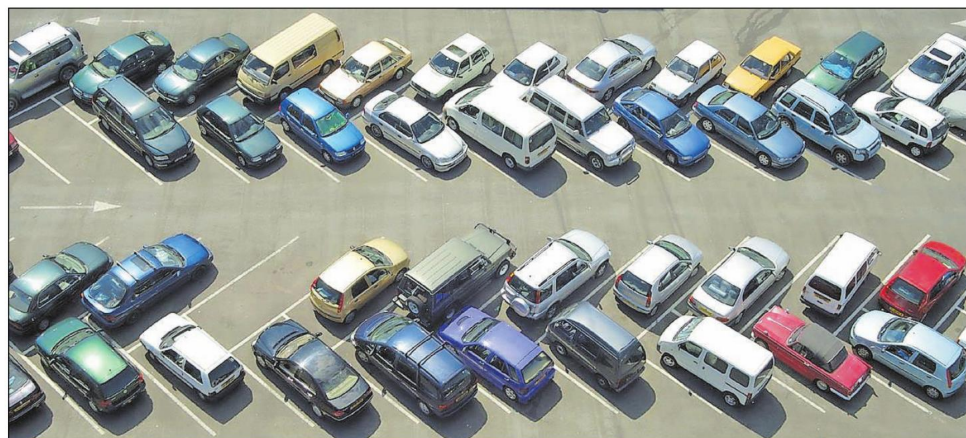
It's also free to park after 3pm in Edinburgh Road car park every day of the week, perfect for a late afternoon visit to the town.

In the Flour Mills car park, visitors can park for free all day on Sundays and on Bank Holidays.

The Station Road car park is also free to use after 3pm on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

In addition, the Bridewell Lane car park in Tenterden is free to park in on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

The intention of the change in parking fees is to support Ashford's retail-



ers by attracting more visitors into the town centre, something that free parking for the farmers' market is already doing. The council hopes the initiative will also increase the footfall in Ashford which will help boost trade for local businesses and make the town centre an attractive option for new business ventures.

The parking scheme was developed following an extensive review of council-run car parks, research on what other towns are doing and consultation with various stakeholders.

It also took into account changes in parking technology and government guidance.

Many of the existing parking payment terminals will be replaced with modern pay machines which accept fees by phone, credit/debit card and 'wave & pay' contactless technology.

The new terminals will be put in place later in the year as part of an ongoing repair and renewal programme.



FREE PARKING ON SELECT DAYS OVER THE EASTER WEEKEND

IN ASHFORD & TENTERDEN

Ashford Borough Council has introduced free parking at certain times in the following car parks:

Edinburgh Road TN24 8LG
Free after 3pm Monday-Saturday,
free on Sundays and Bank Holidays

Flour Mills TN24 8PA
Free on Sundays and
Bank Holidays

Bridewell Lane TN30 6EY
Free on Sundays and Bank Holidays

Station Road TN23 1PP
Free after 3pm Sundays
and Bank Holidays



FREE PARKING
in ashford

WWW.ASHFORD.GOV.UK/FREE-PARKING



FREE PARKING
in tenterden



Easter - Your Guide To Days Out

Advertisers' announcements



Experience a little Madagascar

VISITORS to Port Lymgne Reserve, one of Kent's most affordable days out, can celebrate all things Madagascan this weekend with a host of free activities including crafts, games, quizzes, animal talks and feeds.

The weekend aims to highlight the various species only found on the island of Madagascar and raise awareness of the conservation work carried out by the reserve and The Aspinall Foundation.

Adrian Harland, animal director, said: "All weekend our visitors can find out everything they've ever wanted to know about these endangered species whilst taking part in free activities and joining our education team for fact-filled talks."

Activities and games, including 'Pin the Tail on the Lemur' will be held in the reserve's Conservation Station at various times during the day. Talks and feeds will also take place at various locations around the reserve and visitors are advised to check the information boards.

Adrian added: "Madagascar is a



wonderful island filled with incredible species, but sadly these species are under threat.

"This weekend offers a great opportunity for our visitors to learn about the vital conservation work we are doing both at the reserve and, in the field."

The reserve, between Ashford and Hythe, is not only home to the county's authentic African Experience but also to a variety of Madagascan favourites, including bamboo lemurs, black and white ruffed lemurs and fossa.

For further information including

opening times, entry prices and special events please visit www.aspinall-foundation.org/portlympne.

Port Lymgne and its sister site, Howletts Wild Animal Park in Bekesbourne near Canterbury, work with The Aspinall Foundation, a world leading conservation charity.

The parks are two of the county's most popular visitor attractions. And profits from the parks and from the accommodation at Port Lymgne Reserve go towards helping The Aspinall Foundation's efforts to save rare and endangered species, both in the UK and overseas.

Howletts and Port Lymgne, working in conjunction with the foundation, are some of the most successful breeders of captive endangered animals in the world.

With unrivalled achievements in husbandry, the conservation charity boasts 135 gorilla births, 33 black rhino, 123 clouded leopards, 33 Javan gibbons, 104 Javan langur and 20 African elephants

Both parks were awarded Best Leisure and Tourism Business at the 2012 and 2013 KEiBA awards.



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FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE
FREE ADMISSION

We are delighted to announce the launch of the Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards 2015.



NOMINATIONS are now welcome for the 2015 Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards. The awards dinner will take place at Ashford International Hotel on October 15, 2015 from 6.30pm to midnight.

The prestigious awards, which launched in 2013, are designed to champion, highlight and offer a showcase to the great and the good of the region's food and drink industry, including local producers and suppliers, small farming businesses, chefs, restaurants, pubs and hoteliers.

All will be people who care about the countryside and the future of our local environment.

The companies included will all be nominated by you, our wonderful Kent Life and Kent on Sunday readers. We want to know if you've received a fantastic meal at your local pub or have been impressed by the produce and service at your neighbourhood farmers' market or farm shop.

The nomination form is available here and will be repeated. It is also

available to complete online at: kentfda.co.uk, where you can read more about the awards and see pictures of last year's winners.

Entries close on July 31 2015. Our handpicked panel of high-profile judges who all live or work in Kent will then select a shortlist, kickstarting the independent judging process where finalists will be visited or interviewed to determine a worthy winner in each category.

All finalists will be invited to the prestigious awards ceremony, where they will enjoy a reception and three-course meal with wine before finding out if they are a winner.

This is our third Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards and we are immensely proud to be able to offer you once again the opportunity to reward and recognise the deserving businesses within our local food and drink industry that go above and beyond expectations.

These awards are what you make of them so if you are the owner of a restaurant, a chef or local producer then spread the word among your

clients, customers and visitors.

It takes no time at all to make your nomination. You can email, post or nominate online. The judging panel are looking for quality over quantity, focusing on good comments rather than simply the number of nominations received, so everybody is in with a chance no matter how big or small their business.

■ Don't forget to let us know when you have made your recommendation on our Twitter page @kentlife and @KOSMedia by using #kentfda – similarly, if you are looking for nominations, please use this hashtag.



Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards 2015 Nomination Form

Nominate your Kent food and drink favourites by using this form or email us at kentfda@archant.co.uk

Please post your entry form to: Food & Drink Awards 2015, Archant Kent, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PJ

Or you can email us at: kentfda@archant.co.uk

Copies of the form and posters to advertise your entry are available ___at www.kent-life.co.uk and at www.kentnews.co.uk.

The closing date for entries is Friday July 31, 2015

Name.

Address

Email

By entering your details you will be automatically added to the Archant database, Archant will contact you with relevant offers and you can unsubscribe from this at any time. If you would prefer not to be contacted, please state 'no offers' on this form.



■ Our 2014 Kent Food and Drink Hero, Amanda Cottrell. Who will be your choice of Hero for the 2015 top award?

Newcomer of the Year

Sponsored by Clive Emson Land & Property auctioneers

Who?

Where?

Why?

Independent food or drink retailer of the Year

Sponsored by Illuminate Skin Clinic

Who?

Where?

Why?

Tea Shop of the Year

Sponsored by Cookery Studio Kent

Who?

Where?

Why?

Food Producer of the Year

Sponsored by Perrys Chartered Accountants

Who?

Where?

Why?

Drinks Producer of the Year

Sponsored by Motorline Maserati

Who?

Where?

Why?

Farm Shop of the Year

Who?

Where?

Why?

Farmers' Market of the Year

Who?

Where?

Why?

Pub of the Year

Sponsored by Eastwell Manor

Who?

Where?

Why?

Restaurant of the Year

Sponsored by Britelite

Who?

Where?

Why?

Chef of the Year

Sponsored by the Canterbury Auction Galleries

Who?

Where?

Why?

Customer Service of the Year

Sponsored by Fenwick Canterbury

Who?

Where?

Why?

Kent Food & Drink Hero of the Year

Who?

Where?

Why?

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

Clive Emson This popular category is open to anyone in the food or drink industry who has started a new venture within the last 18 months. We want to know what impact they have made on the local community and if they have started to achieve any success further afield. Are they helping to promote Kent food and drink to a new audience or have they found a new way to promote an old favourite?

ILLUMINATE

INDEPENDENT FOOD OR DRINK RETAILER OF THE YEAR

This category celebrates that special food or drink shop that we all treasure. The retailer that includes wonderful local produce in their offering and knows where all their stock comes from to make that special link between field and plate. Our winner will have a special must have range and make a contribution to their local community. Going to their shop will be a treat in itself.



TEA SHOP OF THE YEAR

Tea shops are an integral part of the Kent food and drink scene and we'd like to know your favourites. Who makes the best tea, serves the nicest cakes and the freshest scones? Is the jam home made and are the sandwiches freshly cut and liberally filled?

Do they make tea feel like a special event? Most importantly, are most of the ingredients locally sourced? We're looking forward to hearing all about your favourites.

FOOD PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

Perrys New this year, this category celebrates our local food producers. We are looking for someone who consistently provides both top-quality local produce and service to their customers. We are keen to hear of any innovations, so if they're doing something new, we'd like you to share it with us. If your local baker, grocer or farmer delights, let us know.



This category celebrates our local drink producers. Whether it's gorgeous Kentish fizz or delicious juice, we want to find the producers who play such a vital role in the county's food and drink economy. We want to know who you think makes the best drink in Kent, alcoholic or not, and why it is so special. We are keen to hear of any innovations, so if they're doing something new, for example, a fabulous new flavour, we'd like to hear about it.

FARM SHOP OF THE YEAR

A good farm shop needs to have that extra-special something to tempt shoppers away from their local

supermarket. Are the staff friendly and knowledgeable? Is the range of produce and the layout of an excellent standard? Does your local farm shop offer a box scheme? Is most of the produce sold there grown or raised on that farm, or nearby and if not would the owner be able to tell you where it is from? Nominate your favourite now!

FARMERS' MARKET OF THE YEAR

The key to a good Farmers' Market is not only the range of produce and the quality of its stalls but also the principles that it supports - for example, does it work as a co-operative with other farmers? Is most of the produce sold there grown or raised locally? Are the stallholders welcoming and knowledgeable? Is the layout easy to navigate as you move around the market? Are any extras offered on a regular basis, such as cookery demonstrations or talks? Is the Market well advertised so you can plan your visit in advance and is there good accessibility and parking? Let us know so we can tell everyone about the best place to go.

PUB OF THE YEAR

Eastwell Manor A good pub these days has to offer more than a warm welcome and excellent ale. We are looking for an inn that also offers delicious and locally sourced food with seasonal variations. As well as excellent food and drink, it must offer fantastic friendly customer service and real

value for money. Good pubs are genuinely the hub of their local community. To misquote a popular TV programme, "pubs are all about ambience, ambience, ambience." If you know a great one, even if it isn't your local, let us all know by voting for them.

RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

BRITELITE The Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Restaurant of the Year needs to offer an incomparable dining experience, from the ambience to the service and most importantly the food. Are the ingredients locally sourced, do they support local producers and if so, are they recognised on the menu? Look through their wine list, do they have local as well as international wines and fizz and can the staff tell you more if you ask? We'd expect nothing less from the 2014 Restaurant of the Year.

CHEF OF THE YEAR



Kent is blessed with outstanding chefs working in the county's fantastic array of restaurants. The Chef of the Year should be someone who has devoted himself or herself to the cause of serving the best possible food. They will demonstrate technical ability, use of seasonal ingredients, presentation of the food and an understanding of how flavours work

together. They will be able to lead and inspire their team and to talk to customers knowledgeably about the dishes they have enjoyed. Above all, we are looking for passion - that magic ingredient that defines true greatness in the kitchen.



Another category that's new this year is Customer Service of the Year. Most of our awards recognise customer service in some form. This category celebrates this vital element for its own sake. Do you know an individual, organisation or establishment offering consistently excellent service that goes above and beyond what you expect? We all know great service when we have received it, now is your chance to get it recognised. If you know a person, company, producer, pub, shop or restaurant that is a delight to deal with, tell us.

KENT FOOD & DRINK HERO OF THE YEAR

Kent has a food and drink scene that is among the most vibrant in the UK as you would expect from the Garden of England. This category celebrates the individual who has made a positive impact on the food or drink community - someone who goes the extra mile to promote Kent to a wider audience and is passionate about local produce throughout. Now is your chance to nominate your own Kent Food and Drink Hero.

Bridge Haven Care Home

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Bridge Haven care home provides care with compassion for those living with dementia. The home offers care and comfort, but also introduces a new, positive and more engaging stage in the lives of its residents who live there.

Care services provided at Bridge Haven include full time residential care, day care and short term respite care, known as the 'My Time' service.

All rooms at Bridge Haven are bright and cheerful with many bedrooms having en-suite facilities, providing relaxation and a sense of well-being.

Other amenities include the 'Snug' - a pub like facility for residents to enjoy and socialise and Gregory's tea room, situated within the beautifully landscaped gardens.

Bridge Haven, Conyngham Lane, Bridge, Canterbury CT4 5JX

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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Green Belt must be protected

IN KoS (15.3), there are three letters demanding the Green Belt be protected. I wish to add my voice to this demand.

In my view, there are adequate brownfield sites available, as yet untapped, and furthermore empty property above shops of which there are many.

They should be brought into the housing market before greenfield sites or the Green Belt is utilised.

I also have a theory that areas of prime farmland have been allowed, over several year, to deteriorate due to lack of good husbandry, so that it can be designated as brownfield.

Now an area in Station Road, Walmer, on the western side of Clifford Caravan Park is subject to a planning application for several hundred houses on what was once prime farmland. Indeed, a decade ago, combine harvesters would work well into the night by their headlights to bring in the wheat harvest.

Not only must our Green Belt be protected but prime farmland too.

John Gamet,
Walmer

Why I decided to quit the Tories

I WISH to explain my reasons for leaving the Conservative Party and joining Ukup.

Firstly, it was as a consequence of their support for the development of 5,000 houses at Lodge Hill, Chatham, and the way the local Conservatives of Rochester and Strood treated me after over 45 years of loyal service as if it meant nothing.

Secondly, because of the free movement between the European Union 29 member countries, I cannot blame people for wanting to come to the UK to better themselves.

I blame the system of free movement, a system which the unelected commissioners of the EU have said they will not change under any circumstances.

Thirdly, the same commissioners make approximately 70 per cent of our laws, it will not be too long before they will be making a hundred per cent of our laws, it will then be time for us to throw the keys of Westminster into the Thames.

Tom Mason,
Councillor, Strood Rural

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Maidstone Zoo still sparking memories

IN response to your recent articles about Maidstone Zoo I would like to add my own memories.

I grew up very near the zoo and we visited it many times especially on the opening day of the season.

From where we lived we could hear the lions roaring.

The main entrance was on the Chatham Road (where the motorway and Chatham Road now merge) and the large gate posts had statues of lions on them.

You could board a mini-steam train to take you through the park. Most people took a picnic but I think you could buy snacks and ice-creams from a little hut.

I remember as a small child being inconsolable when my sandwich was taken out of my hand by a free-range chicken!

The various feeding times were announced and everyone flocked to the appropriate cages to see

the animals being fed.

Many 'stars' of the day came to open the zoo. Regular visitors were Jack Warner (Dixon of Dock Green) and Elsie and Doris Walters (Gert and Daisy who named the elephants) and Petula Clark. My friend who now lives in the States reminded me of when Stanley Holloway refused to sign our autograph books – we were very upset!

Apart from the zoo, Sir Garrard Tyrwhitt-Drake will be remembered for leading the annual Maidstone Carnival on his white horse and later in his yellow Rolls-Royce. The carnival would assemble by the prison and parade down Week Street and I think end up in Mote Park. In those days everyone made a huge effort to decorate a float.

Barbara Marchant,
Smarden

No Geraldine on top women list

I AM surprised that you chose to feature 11 of the most inspirational women in Kent (KoS, last week).

Surely you should have made it a round dozen and included Geraldine Allinson, chairman of the KM (Kent Messenger) Group or is this just because she is head of a rival newspaper group?

Ann Brine,
by email

Well done Iris on your influence

IRIS Johnson made your top ten most powerful women in Kent (KoS, last week).

She is leader of Thanet District Council and oversees service provision of some of the county's most deprived areas.

As a councillor she is hands on in supporting the residents of Central Margate ward with a whole range of issues.

Congratulations Iris. Well done indeed.

Frances Rehal,
Labour parliamentary candidate
for North Thanet

Energy prices need restricting

HIGH energy bills are a big problem for many people locally, especially at this time of year.

Some 1.6 million children in the UK live in fuel poverty, and this winter one older person will die of cold every seven minutes. Meanwhile the Big Six energy companies are making billions in profits and have failed to pass on recent cost-savings.

It's clear that privatisation has been a disaster – yet our government is using our aid budget to promote this failed approach in countries like Nigeria, where the result has been higher prices, blackouts and job losses.

We can and should use aid money to improve people's lives. But this will only happen if it's used in the right way. For example, in Bolivia and Costa Rica, energy co-operatives have provided electricity in rural areas where previously it wasn't available.

It's high time our politicians realised that the power of the Big Six is failing consumers in the UK – and stopped supporting the same failed model abroad.

Kay Aldridge,
Dartford

Pollution levels cause concern

LAST week's high pollution levels received widespread media coverage because of the health risks posed to many vulnerable people across the UK, including those with respiratory conditions such as asthma.

Though pollution levels have since decreased, I wanted to alert those of your readers with asthma made worse by pollution that it can take as long as two weeks for airways to return to normal after being exposed to an asthma trigger.

Therefore they should remain vigilant with their asthma by continuing to take their medicines as prescribed and keeping track of their symptoms. See the website www.asthma.org.uk.

Kay Boycott,
Chief Executive of Asthma UK

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles which tie in with our parent company Archant's overall mission statement.

Archant's mission statement is: "We bring together motivated buyers and sellers through the creation of unique and compelling content and community expertise."

The way KoS will create our unique and

compelling content is to follow these 10 principles:

Kent on Sunday will:

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.
- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.

7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.

8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.

9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.

10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.



**Milton Church,
Gravesend** by
Ian Yarham, Welling

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QUALITY, REFINEMENT AND SPACE: The new third generation Kia Sorento offers a major step up from the previous version



Kia's revolutionary revelation

Latest Sorento SUV highlights Korean brand's remarkable ten-year progression from value brand to one with premium aspirations...

YOU don't just get evolution with Kia – every new car marks a revolution compared with its predecessor. The all-new third generation Sorento highlights this. Since the first generation car – a bargain-price five-seat true off-roader – appeared in 2003, the car has morphed into an imposing yet sleek seven-seat luxury SUV.

Sure, there's a passing resemblance to the in-between Mk2 in styling and proportions, but while the old car was all about adding further value to that Kia staple, the industry-leading seven-year/100,000-mile warranty, its successor marries those virtues with genuine quality and refinement.

Starting at a still reasonable £28,795, the Mk3 Sorento comes with a generous standard spec and looks good value against obvious rivals such as the Hyundai Santa Fe and Nissan X-Trail, and even the new Land Rover Discovery Sport, though the Kia badge doesn't have the snob value to go toe-to-toe there yet.

The re-modelled 197bhp 2.2-litre diesel from the outgoing car is the only engine option for now, but meets the latest stringent emission levels and has lower CO2 output (from 149g/km).

Fitted with either six-speed manual or auto 'box it feels refined – there are premium rivals that cannot



match it for fast, quiet and untroubled progress.

Even the driving experience is a big improvement, with a nice flat cornering stance rather than a typical SUV wallow, though the power steering feels rather remote.

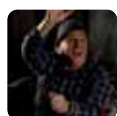
Interior quality and practicality is also excellent, with a fore and aft sliding middle row of

seats and easy access to two rear chairs that, unlike some rivals, are not totally limited to kids and the vertically challenged.

While the boot is quite small (142 litres) with all seven seats in use, it offers an impressive 605 litres with five occupied, and 1,500 litres of load space with all rear seats folded.

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'KX-1' £25,345**

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Fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Kia Sportage and Sorento range are: Urban 31.0 (9.1) – 47.1 (6.0), Extra-Urban 46.3 (6.1) – 58.9 (4.8) and Combined 39.2 (7.2) – 54.3 (5.2). CO₂ emissions are between 189–135/km. MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. Model shown: Kia Sportage '1' 1.6 GDI 133bhp 6-speed manual @ £18,010 including metallic paint @ £510 and Kia Sorento 'KX-1' 2.2 CRDi 194bhp 6-speed manual 7-seat @ £25,345 including metallic paint @ £550 and £2,200 customer saving. Specification is subject to change without notice. Price, Reevo score and number of reviews correct at time of going to press. 7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty, for terms and exclusions visit www.kia.co.uk. Offer not available with any other offer. Retail sales only. Subject to availability on vehicles registered between 07/01/15 and 31/03/15. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. 18's or over. Guarantee/ indemnity may be required. 10% minimum deposit. Further charges may be made subject to the condition or mileage of the vehicle. Excess mileage charge 14.9p per mile. **You will not own the vehicle until all payments are made. We are a credit broker (not a lender), we can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers and may receive a commission from them for the introduction.** 25, 31 and 37 month terms. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle. (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Kia Motors Finance RHI 1SR. The Bluetooth® word mark and logo are registered trademarks and owned by the Bluetooth SIG, Inc.

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New Lexus NX looks Samurai sharp

The Toyota premium brand's all-new compact crossover shows a tough new design stance to complement Lexus quality and value, writes **Steve Loader...**

LEXUS styling has often lacked sharpness, despite coming from a nation famed for the keen cutting edge of the Samurai sword.

While German premium rivals honed the looks of their line-ups, Toyota's luxury arm failed to home in on a consistent theme – until now.

A big deep grille is the corporate 'face' – perhaps inspired by Audi – and the all-new NX 'premium compact crossover' weaves that feature into a sharp and harmonious design.

This includes flared arches and chunky rear quarters, and yet the NX is also one of the most aerodynamic of SUVs, with consequent economy benefits.

Apparently, it is designed to appear as if forged from a single hunk of metal – so just like a Samurai sword then.

Typically for a brand that prides itself on good build quality and comprehensive standard equipment, the NX is cracking value too (from £29,495).

Though fitting into the range below the existing RX SUV, the NX's sporty cabin looks capacious and, using the motor industry's favoured benchmark, Lexus boasts it will take



four golf bags in the boot, though total space here depends on whether you have a petrol-electric hybrid, as tested here (555 litres) or the petrol turbo (580 litres) – presumably, the former's battery pack steals some capacity.

And despite its racy profile, the sensible tail end roofline means that

rear headroom is not compromised, as in some rivals.

So which are the targets here? Audi's crossover/SUV models, the Q3 and Q5 clearly are, as is the BMW X3, but the biggest prize is for the NX to be mentioned in the same breath as Land Rover's coveted Range Rover Evoque.



It has the presence to be, and is priced to worry the British contender, but the Evoque is great to drive while, in petrol-electric hybrid format anyway, the NX feels rather vague.

That said, the 2.0-litre petrol turbo (£39,095) with tauter F-Sport chassis might well be different.


Lexus NX Luxury Auto

Price:	from £34,495
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	Range Rover Evoque

And if you want to impress, yet do it more ethically – at a time when diesel fuel emissions are under the spotlight – the petrol-electric hybrid NX still has much to recommend, including up to 56mpg (official combined cycle) helped by the electric-only mode for limited local driving and whisper-quiet 'eco' mode, drawing the best from both petrol and electric motors.

Low emissions mean zero road tax in year one and £30 or £105/year after that, depending on model. The £30/year option is the front-wheel drive only entry model – other NX derivatives get all-wheel drive as standard.

Inside, the NX appears rock solid and though the dash is a little fussy – the designers seem to have tried over hard to echo the crisp exterior – everything works well.




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Option to purchase fee	£149
Total amount payable	£16,355
Duration (months)	49
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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the cars shown are: urban 40.4 (7)–44.8 (6.3); extra-urban 60.1 (4.7)–61.4 (4.6); combined 51.4 (5.5)–54.3 (5.2). The official CO₂ emissions are 127–115g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO₂ may vary according to driving styles, road conditions and other factors.

†Four-year warranty applies to new vehicles when ordered from a UK Renault-approved dealer. Warranty up to 4 years/100,000 miles (whichever comes first). For full warranty terms and conditions visit www.renault.co.uk/warranty. **Service package available for £199 when the vehicle is ordered and registered by 31 March 2015. Visit renault.co.uk/servicepackage. *Clio Monthly payment shown based on £1,321 deposit, 48 monthly payments of £149, and an optional final payment of £5,023. Finance provided by RCI Financial Services Limited, PO Box 149, Watford WD17 1FJ. Subject to status. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. You must be at least 18 and a UK resident (excluding the Isle of Man and Channel Islands). Terms and conditions apply. Our dealership introduces customers to a limited number of financial providers including RCI Financial Services Ltd. Offer based on 6,000 miles per annum, excess mileage 8p per mile inc VAT. Offers cannot be used with other schemes or finance offers and are available on featured new vehicle when ordered and registered between 2 March and 31 March 2015. Participating dealers only. Clio shown has optional Flame Red Renault i.d. metallic paint, available at £595. Captur shown with metallic i.d. paint at an additional £495 and painted roof at £399. Excludes Clio Expression and Renaultsport models.

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Thamesview SCHOOL
with Business and Enterprise status
Headteacher: Mr Henry Ingworth MA

**SCIENCE
TECHNICIAN**

37 hours per week for 39 weeks per year
Kent Salary Range 4 (rates as at April 2015)
£16,634.00 – £17,475.00 per annum
Pro rata to £14,035.77 - £14,745.41

We are seeking to appoint a passionate member of support staff who will join the Science Department to work closely with and support the needs of both our teaching staff in this area and the students participating in practical lessons, providing general assistance for the maintenance and cleanliness of the learning spaces and equipment used.

Our ideal candidate will have experience or knowledge of Health and Safety procedures especially as they relate to Science lessons and chemicals, and an understanding of the appropriate cleaning, maintenance, use and storage of equipment and machinery.

The School received a very positive Ofsted Report recently and was rated 'good' in every category. Thamesview is a new school build that benefits from innovative learning environments and state of the art ICT equipment.

We are committed to providing high quality learning experiences for our students and to supporting our staff through excellent CPD opportunities.

Further details and an application form can be obtained from our HR Manager on 01474 566552 ext 1120 or email k.mcgowan@thamesview.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date: 7th April 2015, 9.00am
Interviews: Week Commencing 20th April 2015

CVs without an application form will not be accepted.

Appointment to this post is subject to a criminal background check via the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).
Thamesview School operates a no smoking policy

Thamesview SCHOOL
with Business and Enterprise status
Headteacher: Mr Henry Ingworth MA

COVER SUPERVISOR

30 hours per week for 39 weeks per year
Kent Salary Range 7 (rates as at April 2015)
£21,086.00 – £23,990.00 per annum
Pro rata to £14,426.24 - £16,413.05

We are seeking to appoint a passionate member of support staff who will join a team of Cover Supervisors to provide cover supervision for absent teaching staff, involving the facilitation of learning by KS3 and KS4 students in a safe and secure learning environment. The successful candidate will also undertake other non-teaching duties as directed during non-cover lessons including the provision of administrative support for specified projects and provide LSA support for SEN students within lessons.

The ideal applicant...

- will relate well to students
- must have good attendance and punctuality record
- will be able to liaise and communicate effectively with staff and students
- must be confident to lead whole classes.
- needs to be proactive to engage with students, using materials left for classes.
- will develop their own resources to supplement teacher resources.
- will be familiar with the use of ICT resources and teacher resources.

The School received a very positive Ofsted Report recently and was rated 'good' in every category. Thamesview is a new school build that benefits from innovative learning environments and state of the art ICT equipment. We are committed to providing high quality learning experiences for our students and to supporting our staff through excellent CPD opportunities. Further details and an application form can be obtained from our HR Manager on 01474 566552 ext 1120 or email k.mcgowan@thamesview.kent.sch.uk.

Closing Date: 7th April 2015, 9.00am
Interviews: Week Commencing 20th April 2015

CVs without an application form will not be accepted.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students.
Appointment to this post will require an Enhanced Disclosure via the Disclosure and Barring Service

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Audio Typist – Margate

Full time Hours: 37.5 per week
Salary: £17,597.25 per annum

Medical Secretary - Margate

Full time Hours: 37.5 per week
Salary: £19,552.50 per annum
Qualifications and Experience

- Maths and English GCSE A – C or equivalent
- 2 years working in a medical environment
- Audio Typing
- Excellent IT Skills (Word, Excel, Booking systems)

Closing date: 02/04/2015

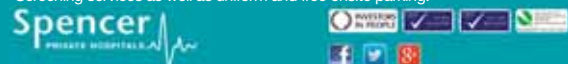
To discuss these opportunities, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Julie Pain, Administration Supervisor on 01843 234558

How to apply:

We regret that CVs are not accepted for any of our roles, for an application pack please visit: www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers
Alternatively, please contact Justine Whittle, HR Assistant, Telephone 01304 245943
E-Mail: recruitment@spencerhospitals.com
Spencer Private Hospitals is an equal opportunity employer.
This position is subject to a Disclosure and Barring check.

Working for Spencer Private Hospitals:

Spencer Private Hospitals recognise and value all of their staff and are committed to developing a well-trained and flexible workforce. As an Investors in People accredited organisation, you can expect a generous holiday allowance, increasing with length of service, company contribution pension scheme, childcare vouchers, my work offers scheme, family and friends discounts on Physiotherapy and Health Screening services as well as uniform and free onsite parking.



Customer Services Manager - Margate

Full time Hours: 37.5
Salary: £25,000 per annum

- Minimum 2 years experiences at a senior level within a Customer Relations/Services environment, with proven supervisory experience
- Strong leadership, influencing and management skills to deliver an enhanced customer experience
- HND in Hotel or Hospitality Management, NVQ / SVQ in Customer Services desirable

Closing date: 10/04/2015

To discuss these opportunities, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Lynn Orrin, Hospital Manager on 01843 234554

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

LICENSING ACT 2003:

Application for Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that Gary Leonard Pottle of 38 Chestfield Road, Whitstable CT5 3LD has applied to Canterbury City Council for the GRANT of Premises Licence for Micro Pub for 15 customers, Open hours: Monday to Saturday 11.00 to 23.00, Sunday 11:00 to 22.30 for the premises 84 Reculver Road, situated at 84 Reculver Road, Beltinge, Herne Bay, CT6 6ND.

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at www.canterbury.gov.uk/licensing or at Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1YW tel. 01227 862000 by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to my/our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 21/04/2015.

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that their identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. In the case of an application for a provisional statement, please note that representations will be restricted once a statement has been issued.

Public notice – Licensing Act 2003

An application has been made by The Horsmonden Social Club Committee to vary the club premises certificate at Horsmonden Social Club, Green Road, Horsmonden, Tonbridge, TN12 8JS.

On 20 March 2015.

Summary of proposed variation of licensable activities and proposed hours of opening:

Standard hours:	Non-standard hours
Mon – Wed 1000 – 2300	Xmas Eve 1000 – 0000
Fri – Sat 1000 – 0100	Xmas Day 1200 – 1500 & 1900 – 2230
Sun 1200 – 2230	Good Fri 1000 – 0100
	New Year's Eve 1000 – 0100

Activities – sale of alcohol, playing of recorded & live music, showing of films.

N.B. The Club will not be open throughout the times listed above this application has been submitted to remove the need to apply regularly for individual temporary event licences.

Any person wishing to view details of an application may contact the Licensing Partnership on 01732 227004. Any person wishing to make representation about the application should make them in writing on or before the 17 April 2015 to:

Licensing Partnership, PO BOX 182, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1GP
licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk
<http://pa.sevenoaks.gov.uk/online-licensing>

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5000.

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

J H Young Ltd trading as Young's Timber & Builders Merchants of 19-23 Hythe Road, Dymchurch, Kent TN29 0LN is applying to change an existing license as follows To add an operating centre to keep 3 goods vehicles and 0 trailers at J H Young Ltd Castletons Oak Sawmills, Beneden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent TN27 8DX. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003

Notice is hereby given that Oscar & Bentleys Ltd of 10 Guildhall Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2JQ has applied to Canterbury City Council for the GRANT of a Premises Licence for Live Music, Recorded Music and Performance of Dance from 10:00 to 01:00hrs every day, Supply of Alcohol (on and off sales) from 10:00 to 01:30hrs every day and Late Night Refreshment from 23:00 to 01:30hrs every day. On New Year's Eve: all Regulated Activities to be extended from the end of Permitted Hours on New Year's Eve to the start of Permitted Hours on New Year's Day. The above for the premises Oscar & Bentleys Ltd of 10 Guildhall Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2JQ. A register of licensing applications can be inspected at www.canterbury.gov.uk/licensing or at Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1YW tel. 01227 862000 by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday. Any person wishing to submit representations to our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 17/04/2015. The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.

Public Notice

Southborough Town Council intends to transfer a plot of open public space land consisting of recreation ground, playing fields and informal open space of approximately 3.8 acres to Kent County Council for use towards the mixed use Southborough Hub development.

The land has pedestrian access from the A26 London Road and links to the Ridgewaye.

For further details please contact the Town Clerk at brenda.wickens@southboroughcouncil.co.uk

PLANNING



THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y15/0238/SH - Priory Cottage Oak Walk Hythe Kent CT21 5DN - Crown reduction of a Holm Oak subject of Tree Preservation Order No 9 of 1999.

Y15/0261/SH - 100 Stade Street Hythe Kent CT21 6DY - Erection of a single storey rear extension following demolition of existing extension and outbuilding/store.

Y15/0254/SH - Hotel Imperial Princes Parade Hythe Kent CT21 6AE - Erection of temporary golf clubhouse for a period of three years.

Y15/0259/SH - Globe Cottage Newchurch Romney Marsh Kent - 1 metre reduction in height of a row of Silver Birch trees situated within a conservation area.

Y15/0260/SH - Globe Cottage Newchurch Romney Marsh Kent - Retrospective notification for a 2 metres overall crown reduction of a Monterey Cypress situated within a conservation area.

Y15/0190/SH - 9 Castle Mews Folkestone Kent CT20 2BU - Various pruning works to a Holm Oak tree situated within a conservation area comprising: reduction in the height by 6 metres and the laterals by 2 metres; crown lift by 2 metres and prune back to trunk of one lower limb on eastern side of canopy.

Y15/0243/SH - The Old Green Madeira Road Littlestone New Romney Kent - Felling of four Poplar and 4 Conifer trees, all situated within a conservation area.

Y15/0263/SH - San Remo 4 The Riviera Sandgate Folkestone Kent - Erection of a rear conservatory

Representations can be made in writing either on line on the Council's website, by email to planning@shepway.gov.uk or in writing to the Head of Planning and Environmental Health, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY. Please always quote the application reference number. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. Please note that any representations received will be publically viewable on the Council's website.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

Note: This is not a full list of applications received. All planning applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

C Lewis, Head of Planning and Environmental Health Shepway District Council

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Hawkins aims for glory in GB call-up

Athletics

By Jamie Weir

Jamie.Weir@archant.co.uk

FATHER of three, and Kent firefighter Adrian Hawkins will be setting off for Spain after being picked to represent Great Britain in the European Sprint Duathlon.

The discipline will see him run a 5km race, then immediately cycle 20km before getting off his bike to run a further 5km.

But the 46-year-old from Deal told KoS: "I'd been thinking about triathlon [a combination of running, cycling and swimming] for a while and it was a colleague at work who challenged me to do one with him.

"I'd done some cycling and enjoyed it as a way of keeping fit. I'd even ridden from Calais to Monte Carlo a couple of years earlier to raise money for the Tsunami appeal with my work colleagues."

The stumbling block, according to Hawkins, had always been the swimming.

He said: "I'd never been a swimmer, just doing it socially, but in my usual style I threw myself into the pool - literally - and basically taught myself to swim. I entered the Hever Castle Triathlon first, and although my friend beat me that day, I was bitten by the bug and starting to look for more races to enter."

His journey to the duathlon started, when, after getting increasingly hooked on triathlon, he joined the Deal Tri club - one of the biggest multisport clubs in the country. He credits the club for getting him interested in the duathlon.

He said: "I started doing duathlons which I favoured as it meant I didn't



TRAINING: Hawkins is working hard in the run up to representing Team GB at the European championships in Spain at the end of April

have to swim. I was getting back into the running more and my cycling was coming on in leaps and bounds, so it seemed like a natural progression.

"I started getting good results at the club duathlons and improving my times."

When he came in the top 10 at the European age group qualifying race at Oulton Park near Manchester, he became a reserve for Team GB, before finally getting the call up

earlier this month.

He said: "I often thought how nice it would be to get to a high level and represent your country at sport. I never ever thought that it could happen.

"I'm very excited and nervous at the same time but I'm going to make the most of the opportunity, soak up the atmosphere on race day and be proud to be part of the GB team."

The race will take place in Alcobendas, Spain on April 26.

Maidstone rugby look to get Intermediate Cup

UNBEATEN Maidstone Rugby Club are on fire this season, reaching their third semi-final in four seasons with a strong win over London based Chiswick.

The team took the 29-12 victory in the London and SE Regional final of the Intermediate Cup.

Currently enjoying a strong season, the team are perched at the top of the London 2 South East league, and have also put together strong performances in the season's cup competitions.

The team are gearing up to host SW Division champions, Gloucester club Coney Hill at The Mote next Saturday (April 4).

The match will see the two titans of their regions clash - but despite Coney Hill being the south west regional champs, they haven't man-



STRONG: The club put in solid performances this season

aged Maidstone's unbeaten run. That's something Maidstone will be eager to keep going.

Maidstone Rugby Club spokesman Bob Hayton told KoS the team was fired up for the forthcoming game.

He said: "We've been playing really well, winning strongly with great scorelines in many of our games, and to take the cup would be the icing on this season's cake.

"Although we're unbeaten, the path through to the cup final hasn't been easy, and the lads have had to work really hard in a number of games. There certainly haven't been any easy ties given to the club.

"We have had a good record in the RFU cup competitions over the last few seasons, taking the London and SE regional title in the Senior Vase competitions in 2012 and 2013, and only exiting the competition at the national semi-final stage following narrow defeats."

Gills manager won't take his eye off the ball

GILLINGHAM manager Justin Edinburgh has said that he's hoping the squad can finish the season strongly, but admits he is already eyeing up opportunities for the 2015-2016 campaign.

He revealed that he is thinking about the Gills next run at glory, but said he still expects his team to perform.

He said: "You have to be planning ahead and that's what we're doing as a staff, and as a manager I'm looking ahead to make sure I get those decisions right.

"What I'm not doing is taking my eye off the games because they're the most important thing. We still need to win football matches."

The club's boss said that at this stage, it's all to play for. Sitting mid table, it looks unlikely the team will be able to break into the play-off places, but Edinburgh wants to see the team better last season's performance.

He said: "We've got eight games left and want to be competitive and pick up as many points as we can in them."



PLANNING: Edinburgh's getting ahead of the game



WIN: Fleet need to take most of the games they have left this season

Ebbsfleet have already 'had their chances'

EBBSFLEET United's manager Jamie Day has admitted that it's for other teams in the league to lose now, rather than the Fleet to win.

The team has looked less and less likely to make the coveted play-off zone as the season draws into its final stages, with some saying the Fleet's surge could be 'too little, too late'.

"In all honesty it's for the other teams to throw away now.

"We need to win probably six of the seven just to give ourselves a chance. We are going to have to

beat Whitehawk and then beat the rest of them. We had our chance last Saturday and didn't take it.

"The boys had a bit of a rocket after Havant, they deserved it and now we need a response."

The team will be boosted with the news that Luke Rooney has signed from Luton Town. The 24-year-old winger kicked off his career with the Gills before moving to Swindon Town for a six figure sum.

He scored five times for Luton this season before agreeing a deal with Jamie Day and the Fleet.

Tenterden welcomes Gating

TENTERDEN Cricket Club got a makeover this week, after being selected as this year's NatWest CricketForce showcase club.

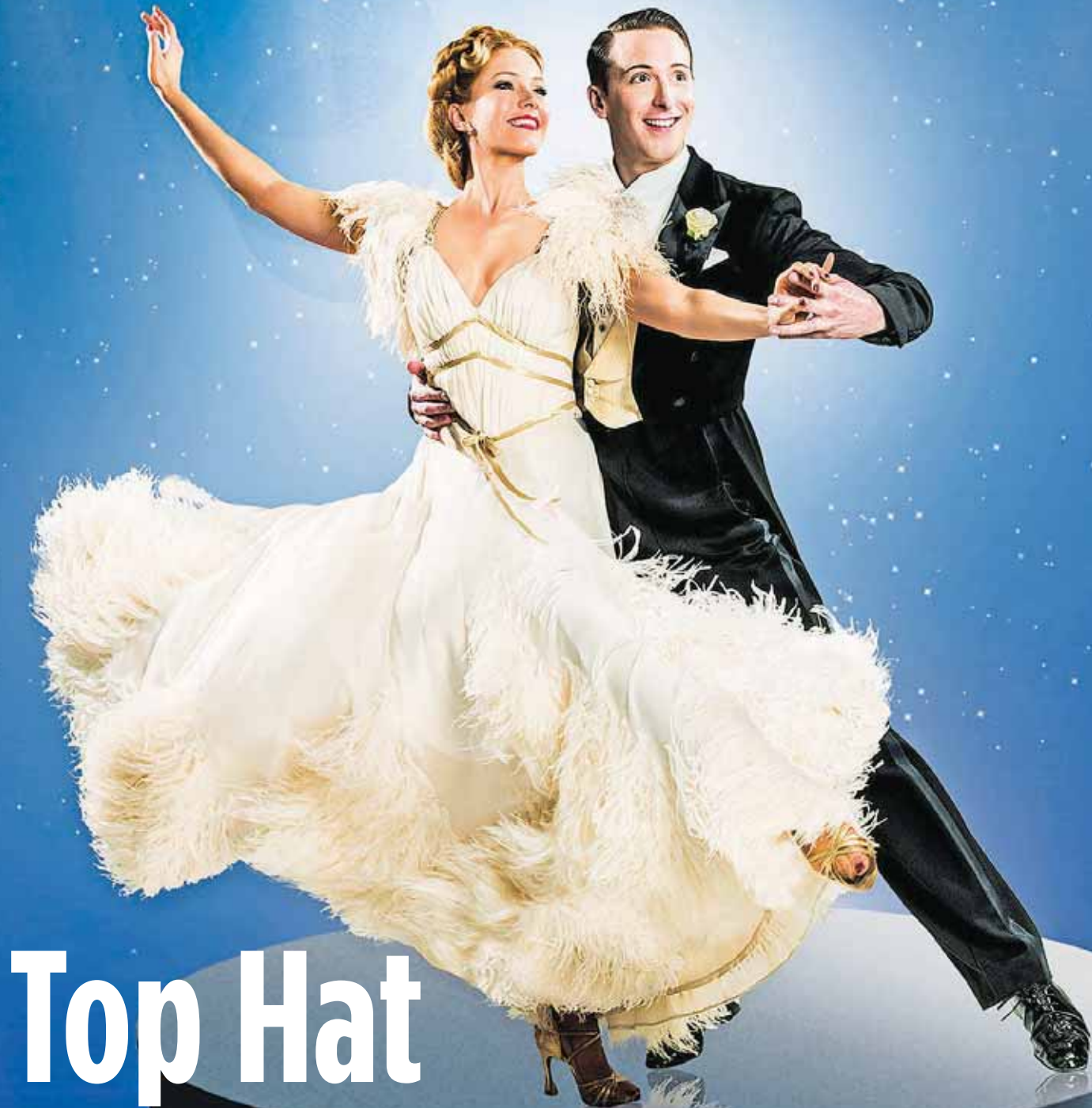
The Kent club welcomed former England cricket team captain Mike Gating, alongside an army of volunteers from the club, community and Kent County Cricket Club to get their ground ready.

Gating, an England Cricket Board cricket partnership ambassador, said: "Year-on-year, CricketForce continues to inspire and grow. The initiative is a proven way to attract new members and engage with the wider local community and businesses. Cricket clubs are the essence of our great sport and it's vital we rally to support them."

“A MUSICAL LIKE THIS COMES AROUND ONCE IN A LIFETIME.”



SUNDAY TELEGRAPH



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